

Animal Husbandry

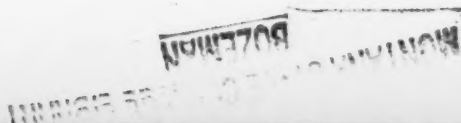
AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL ORGAN



JANUARY, 1938



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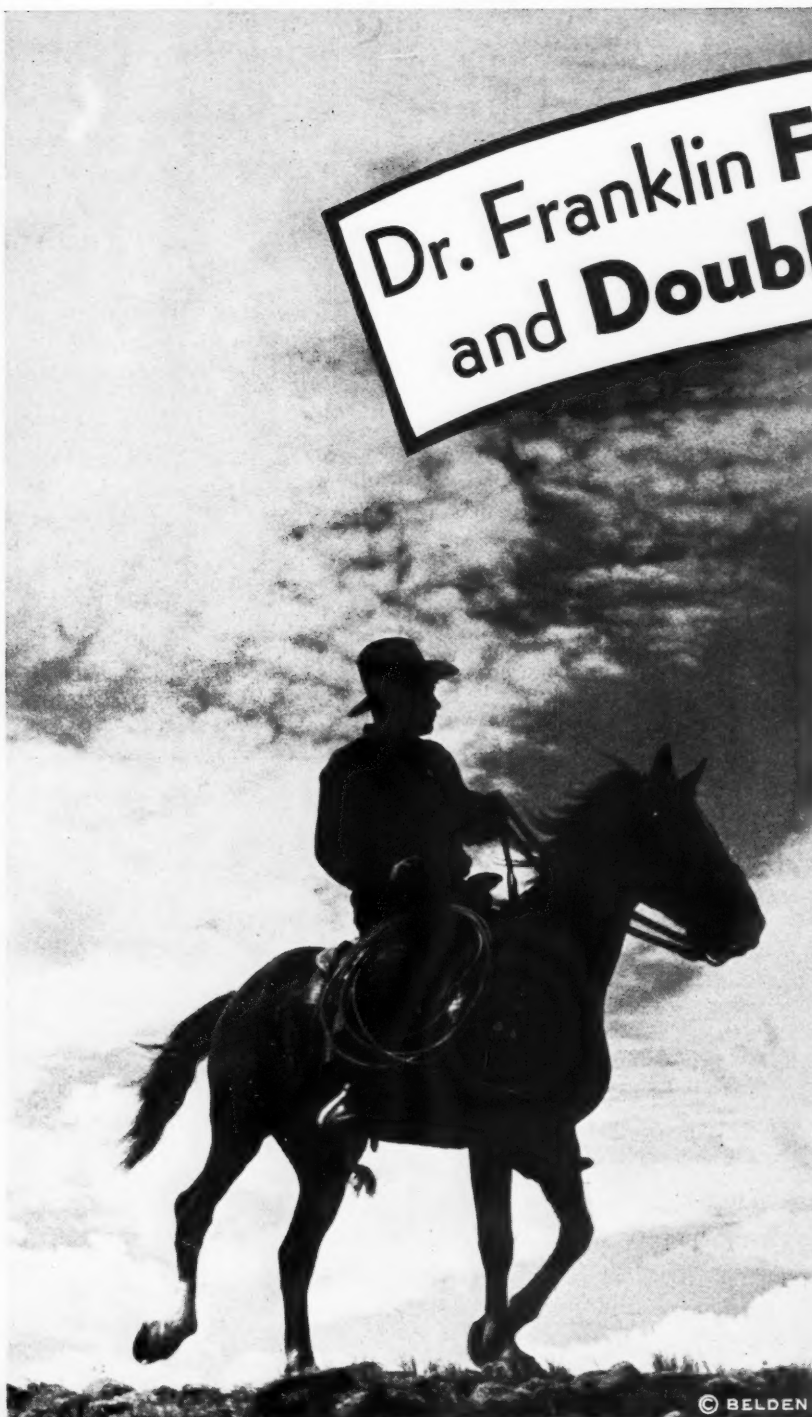
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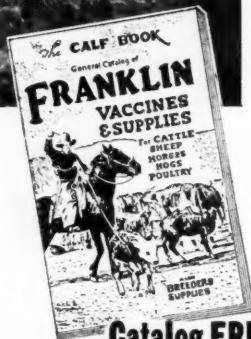
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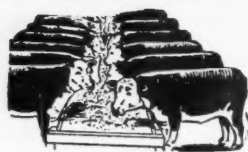
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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Number 8

HOW MUCH OF A JUMP WILL A FROG MAKE?

BY JAMES E. POOLE

MARK TWAIN'S PROBLEM, GUESSING HOW FAR A FROG will jump from where it sits, confronts live-stock producers in different form, with no prospect of solution. Complete collapse has followed ephemeral prosperity. Breaking all previous recovery records, every branch of the market has nose-dived in unprecedented fashion. Optimism is subdued, pessimism dumbfounded. Had substantial increase in production occurred, explanation would have been simple. Between cost agitation and industrial recession producers find themselves betwixt two millstones at an inopportune moment. Cattle, swine, and sheep feeders are bunched at a trough containing a nauseous dose of medicine, values having descended to levels where serious loss has been inflicted, with every prospect of continuance, unless every scrap of handwriting on the wall is deceptive.

Liquidation Is the Order of the Day

Liquidation is the order of the day, and it will run its course, confidence having been eliminated. No legislative nostrum can be compounded to meet the emergency. Continuing industrial chaos, defying pump priming and crack plastering, are self-assertive. Meat is the first target of enforced economy; consumers, unemployed or otherwise, run to cover at the first sign of restricted income. Pay rolls are being pared, deferred payments on merchandise defaulted or met with difficulty. Building and heavy goods production slacks; consumer goods congest in distributive channels, and in this congestion meats fare worst.

What Happened?

Q. Why has meat consumption been curtailed? A. That's an easy one. Making women price-conscious; outcropping of a continuous depression; pay roll lay-offs; and, in a large measure,

abundance of avian foods. Thanksgiving to Christmas is a period of turkey-eating orgy. The turkey raffle has degenerated into a racket. Ducks and geese play havoc with kosher beef trade among the Jewish people. Meat production is restricted, that of poultry has expanded by leaps and bounds, in excess of 100,000,000 pounds languishing in storage. Formerly a turkey and a beef roast graced the Christmas dinner table; beef has disappeared from that gastronomic effort. The holiday season is a poultry-pushing event, with super-salesmanship behind it. Even the cattle country is in the turkey business. Now that the avian carcass has been picked, the residue of Christmas fetes hashed or consigned to the garbage can, beef should have an inning.

Eighty per cent of the swine carcass finds a temporary refuge in cure or the lard kettle. Any temporary beef or lamb surplus goes on a bargain counter, al-

though an outlet always exists for low-grade beef, especially when consumers are in economical mood. Enormous sausage consumption maintains demand for bulls. For cooked meat purposes, canning and cutting cows are in constant demand. But the fat steer and the finished lamb run into vicissitude in such emergencies. For some unaccountable reason, veal calves have evaded the debacle.

Prices Crash

Wholesale beef and lamb prices went down with a reverberating crash—a fact that publicists of the Institute of American Meat Packers have emphasized. The ultimate consumer has derived some benefit. Restaurant menu charges are as fixed as the law of the Medes and Persians, although public eating-house operators display ingenuity in reducing cost by splitting portions. At a cutting demonstration for their benefit in Chicago during Christmas week, an expert knife-wielder for one of the major packing concerns illustrated possibilities for re-enacting the loaves and fishes parable. He actually segregated a 15-pound sirloin butt, not an expensive cut, into 60 restaurant steaks—a feat of legerdemain calculated to convince a layman that a little meat can go a long way. The restaurant steak has degenerated into a scrap, and, in accordance with custom, beef is always the most expensive selection on the card.

Packers, processors, or whatever the appropriate appellation may be, are at their wits' ends or thereabouts. At a recent packer gathering to discuss trade ills, the chairman addressed his gloomy auditors as "fellow deficitizens." Dividend passing or deletion, mounting taxes, labor costs, and incidentals lend plausibility to this tale of woe. Slaughter figures tell an eloquent story of diminished volume, on which processors depend for profits. If, as the anti-meat agitators contend, the industry pocketed ill-gotten gains by the dubious expedient of boosting live-stock and meat prices

January, 1938

during 1937, annual statements challenge that obviously absurd assertion. Meat distributors need low or reasonable cost of raw material, plus prompt clearance, to operate profitably. When prices are high, volume is invariably low; when prices are down and outlet channels contract, trouble of different nature ensues. During the high-cost period, profit margins were pocketed, as consumers purchased without audible protest; otherwise killers would not have cleaned up the visible supply daily, clamoring for more on the next session, frequently at the break of day. Mounting cost of processing, including taxation, invariably kicks back to the producer, especially when consumers refuse to stand the gaff.

Low Ebb Production

That excess meat production is not the source of stagnation is a statement not open to serious contradiction. With the exception of lamb, production has fallen to the lowest ebb in years, for which 1937 slaughter figures furnish indisputable proof. Competition by other foods must be taken into the reckoning, and purveyors of these foods, aided and abetted by distributors, are pushing these edibles.

Obviously the situation does not warrant prediction. Perspicacity is at a discount; remedies are unavailable. Such slogans as "Eat More Meat" or "Meat is Good Food" are mere puerilities. Recourse to the radio will be as efficacious as rain on the ocean during a drought over the hinterland. Anyhow, a suspicion is developing among those who squander their money that way that aerial advertising is bunk. The printed page gets attention; but when publishers nullify advertising with anti-meat screeds and columns of meatless menus, spending money through this channel is tantamount to throwing it to a covey of sparrows. Meat distribution problems may not be insurmountable; solutions will be gratefully received. J. Ogden Armour remarked years ago that a man who would keep him right on the hog market would be eligible to a \$50,000 annual salary. "He would be worth a million to you, at least," responded his auditor.

What would have happened recently had the Atlantic Seaboard market been congested with Argentine chilled beef may be imagined. Ignoring the sanitary phase, carcass cost would have descended to a \$10 basis; even worse, paralysis would have overtaken the domestic cattle market. Nothing but secreting the so-called "convention" saved the day. As it was, continuous heavy imports of South American canned beef, every ounce of which displaced so much domestic product, did not salve the sore. This should be an object lesson to undecided senators, especially those whose constituents are growing or feeding live stock, even though the "national honor" is at stake.

FROM JIM POOLE'S PEN

Each week registers new low cattle prices on the crop. On the first January session, \$11.75 was the limit on prime 1,450-pound bullocks that would have been ready sale at around \$19.50 at the high time, as they were good enough for any trade.

Under present conditions, selling any kind of a steer is merely a matter of getting a ticket. Supply is not excessive, or would not be if consumption were normal. The trouble is in the sphere of distribution, and a comatose hide market must also be reckoned with.

Trash is getting competition, as the new crop of bullocks has developed weight. Under \$7.50 the market is active, in a relative sense, killers needing low-grade beef getting into competition with slop and cannery feeders. Some warmed-up steers are going back to the country at \$7 to \$7.50.

Bulk of fed steers went into the new year with a narrow spread of \$8 to \$9.50, few realizing \$10 or better. Scarcity of finished bullocks is indicated by a gap of \$1.25 between the highest and next sale.

Feeders, selling cattle at cost price in many instances, are perceptibly worried. Beef trade shows a pick-up disposition, but is handicapped by shrinking pay rolls, another term for unemployment, the extent of which was disclosed by the federal census.

Hogs have been pounding on the low level of the winter for weeks. Packers buy greedily on every break in an effort to accumulate product in anticipation of a short tail end of the crop. At \$7.75 to \$8.25, hogs appear to be good property. Eastern killers are keen competitors, owing to close marketing of near-by production.

Lamb feeders are taking terrific punishment, especially where weight is concerned. At the low point, \$8 to \$8.40 took the crop. On reduced supply, the market advanced to an \$8.75 to \$9 basis at the turn of the year. Wool is in a large measure responsible.

Gears in Reverse

At the inception of 1937, all live-stock values were rising, prices enhancing as production curtailment became evident; now the gears are in reverse. Psychology at that time was healthy, now despondency has asserted itself. The fact that light November and December beef and pork production failed to check depreciation is at once suggestive and discouraging. That values will depend largely on consumer ability

and disposition to purchase must be evident even to a trade economist. Editorial effort to repair damage done by sensation vending merely irritates. When one of the offending sheets says, "Better grades of beef and pork are vending at approximately one-half September prices," ignorance of fact is evident, as, despite live-stock depreciation, such a development is impossible. Future live-stock prices depend on consumption revival, plus conservative marketing, and feeders were never more resentful of restraint. During December they exercised commendable caution, probably in realization that crowding would invite disaster. They gave poultry right-of-way, in the hope of improvement when the public became sated with bird food. The next 90 days will furnish a test. They can break the market or themselves by scrambling in that direction.

Country Jittery

Restraint will be difficult, however, as the country is jittery, cattle laid in during the September-to-November period have been putting on phenomenal weight, munching high-quality corn, and every session of the market furnishes admonition that finish and poundage are undesirable. That the crop of steers now ambling to market was put in high was known at the period of installation, and apprehension of loss in the finality of the operation is widespread, even if the market could be stabilized at present levels. When each week records depreciation of 50 cents per cwt. or more, prices holding steady only on starvation supplies, this apprehension is justified. Gain cost is down, but as it flirts with live-cattle prices and margins fade out, a pronounced disposition to go to town generates. Normally, cattle feeders are congenial bulls; under present conditions they do not know just where they are.

Indications point to heavy slaughter during the January-to-April period. Elsewhere than the Corn Belt, the map has a decidedly bovine hue, with the exception of trans-Missouri territory, where the corn crop was a partial failure. Corn Belt feeders are concerned over rising cost of grain and cottonseed products; swelling corn exports mean diversion of that commodity from feed bunker to elevator. Corn processors are minus the flow of Argentine corn on which they were recently operating exclusively, and where a corn crib has been sealed on a government loan the owner is impervious to feed-lot bids.

Southwestern feed-lot contributions are hazy, as no two opinions agree. Canada is a problem, owing to uncertainty as to whether the huge Dominion holding will be dumped into this market or diverted in part across the Atlantic. The Far East—Pennsylvania, Virginia, and elsewhere—is full of steers getting ready for the beef rail, many Virginia

(Continued on page 15)

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

GRAZING HABITS OF RANGE CATTLE

BY MATT CULLEY

SOME 3,000 YEARS AGO THE wisest of the Oriental kings wrote these words: "Go to the ant thou slug-gard; consider her ways, and be wise." If Solomon had been a cattleman in the semidesert country where he lived, he no doubt would have been successful; for he would have worked out range practices based on ways of cattle on the open ranges. If tiny ants could teach Solomon wisdom, it seems reasonable that from cattle, which have always kept much closer company with human beings than ants, Solomon could have learned more useful knowledge and greater wisdom.

In principle, Solomon was right. With respect to grazing habits, ancient shepherds knew their sheep. So do sheep

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herders of our day, especially those who have followed a sheep-tender's life and whose fathers and grandfathers were shepherds before them. Even in so technical an occupation as modern range research, one cannot overlook the grazing habits of live stock if he wants to keep his feet on firm ground when endeavoring to determine how semidesert grasslands can be grazed in order to gain the greatest advantage to all concerned.

In 1934 a study was begun of cattle-grazing habits on the Santa Rita Experimental Range, south of Tucson. This was not done because no one had ever tried to gain any range wisdom from grazing cattle. Cattlemen down through the years of grazing history in the Southwest have gathered considerable information on what plants cattle graze and when and how they graze them. But, as this information is scattered and largely handed down by word of

mouth and the circumstances under which the facts were observed are not known, the Santa Rita study was initiated.

We Live with Cattle

In order to get to the facts with respect to grazing habits of cattle, we had to live with them on the range and follow their movements throughout the daylight hours and late into the night. In this way we learned some of their grazing, watering, and salting habits. For the most part, the observations were made at distances varying from 25 to 100 feet. With the aid of field glasses we were able to see rather definitely just what kinds of plants cows were eating at various times of the day and during different seasons of the year. These observations were checked by detailed examination of the areas over which the cattle grazed, to determine definitely what parts and how much of the different plants were eaten. The number of cattle we observed during any one period varied from a few head to as many as 20. Observations were made on all types of range lands that occurred on the Santa Rita, varying from the browse areas of the low country to the well grassed areas of the high slopes near the mountains.

Thus far observations have been made throughout one grazing year and through two additional summer growing seasons. Although still of a preliminary nature, the findings have already furnished considerable information that will aid in solving some of the problems of range management in the semidesert grassland region.

Cattle Have Their Likes and Dislikes

Of first importance is, probably, preference by cattle for the more important, yet common, forage plants of the Santa Rita region. As the word implies, "preference" means the choice of different range plants by cattle.

In such a study as this it is not easy to summarize our findings with respect to preference. In the accompanying table, first preference by cattle is indicated by the figure "1"; the figure "2" indicates indiscriminate use; "3", grazed occasionally; and "4", rarely or not grazed. For example, California three-awn was grazed indiscriminately during July and August, but from September to January and in late spring its palatability varied from indiscriminate to preferred.

Perhaps the most important finding is that most of the Santa Rita grasses, along with a few of the shrubs, were grazed rather consistently during all seasons of the year. This seems to refute the theory that cattle will eat the plants they like best before grazing to any appreciable extent on others. There were times, to be sure, when some animals definitely selected certain plants. There were also certain localities on the range where some plants appeared to

WHAT CATTLE PREFER

Preference classification of some common range grasses, weeds, and shrubs is given below.

	RELATIVE DEGREE OF PREFERENCE*						
	Early summer (July)	Mid-summer (Aug.)	Late summer (Sept.)	Early winter (Oct.-Nov.)	Late winter (Dec.-Jan.)	Early spring (Feb.-Mar.)	Late spring (Apr.-Jun.)
PERENNIAL GRASSES—							
California three-awn.....	2	2	2-1	2-1	2-1	2	2-1
Large three-awn.....	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
Slender grama.....	2	2-1	2-1	2	2	2	2
Sprucetop grama.....	2	2	2	2-1	2	2	2-3
Cottongrass.....	1-2	1-2	1	1	1-2	1-2	4-2
Curly-mesquite.....	2	1-2	2	2	2	2	..
Wild millet.....	2	1-2	1	1	1	1-2	..
Feathergrass.....	..	..	3	2	2	2	..
Black grama.....	2	1-2	1-2	2-1	2-1	2-1	2
Hairy grama.....	..	2	2	2	2	2	..
Porter's muhlenbergia.....	..	1	1-2	1	2	2-1	..
Rothrock grama.....	2	2	2	2-3	2	2	2
Side-oats grama.....	..	1	2	2	2	2	..
Tanglehead.....	2-3	1-3	1	1-2	2	2	2
Others.....	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4
ANNUAL GRASSES—							
Sixweeks grama.....	2	2-1	2-4	2-4	2	2	..
Sixweeks needlegrass.....	2	2	2-4	2-4	2	2	..
WEEDS—							
Alfilaria.....	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
California-poppy.....	3	2-3	..	..	..	2	1-2
Indianwheat.....	..	..	..	..	..	1-2	2
Others.....	2-3	2-3	..	..	..	2-4	2
SHRUBS—							
Guajilla.....	2-4	2-4	1-2	2	2	2	1-3
Range ratany.....	2-3	2	2	1	2	..	3
Burroweed.....	4	4	4	4	4	4-3	..
Mesquite.....	4-1	4-1	1-4	2-1	2	4-2	1-2
Shrubby eriogonum.....	2	4	..	..	2	..	3-2
Cholla.....	4	4	1-4	1-2	2-1	1-2	1
Catclaw.....	2-4	4	4	2-4	2	4-2	2-1
Others.....	..	3	3-4	2-3	3	..	..

*1. Selected. 2. Grazed indiscriminately. 3. Grazed occasionally. 4. Rarely or not grazed.

be definitely preferred for short periods. For example, cottongrass was definitely preferred during the late summer and early winter, whereas at other seasons its use varied from preferred to indiscriminate. In the late spring, cottongrass was largely omitted from the diet. Rothrock grama showed more consistent use throughout the year than has been indicated from previous utilization studies.

The "others" or lesser grasses were, generally speaking, eaten only occasionally. It was rather surprising to find that sixweeks gramas and needlegrasses were used throughout most of the seasons when they were available. Ordinarily they make but little or no growth during the spring, and hence are not of much importance at this season.

Observations on the use of weeds were rather scanty, due to the fact that in the three years under consideration weeds did not make much growth. The weeds that did appear were grazed occasionally to indiscriminately through the summer and rather consistently through the spring season. California-poppy and Indianwheat were preferred whenever they were available.

The use of shrubs seemed to vary more than grasses or weeds. For example, guajilla was definitely selected in the late summer and late spring and indiscriminately grazed through the winter and early spring. Early in mid-summer, use of this plant varied between indiscriminate and no use at all. Cholla cacti were selected during the winter and spring seasons and in some

localities during the late summer. The use of cholla presents a very good example of the variation in taste of individual animals, some ate it rather consistently, whereas many did not eat it at all. The use of mesquite varied from definitely selected to little or no use, although, generally speaking, it rated relatively high. Both the beans and current year's growth were eaten with about equal relish through most of the year. Burroweed was consistently passed up by cattle, except during a short period in early spring of the one year in which observations were made. Even then it was cropped only occasionally and in places where forage plants were extremely scarce.

In general, the data show that, while cattle ate some kinds of browse at all seasons of the year, the aggregate amount consumed was, on the average, rather small when compared with the quantity of grass eaten. Cattle definitely selected grasses whenever they were available, regardless of the stage of growth or curing.

In many cases the grazing of different plants varied according to the taste of individual animals, while in other cases it varied definitely on different parts of the range. These variations have, in the case of many plants, led to the assignment of different preference ratings at different seasons. The prevailing use, however, is shown first in each case.

Cattle Habits Differ

Cattle have rather definite grazing periods during the day—the morning and evening. During the summer, the morning period started about 5 o'clock and lasted until about 9:00. The afternoon period usually started about 4:00 and lasted until dark or about 7:30. In winter, the morning period started between 6:30 and 7 o'clock and lasted until 10:00 or 10:30. The afternoon period began between 3:00 and 4:00 and lasted until 6:00 or 6:30 in the evening. In the spring, the grazing hours were about the same as for the summer season, except for the fact that cattle frequently grazed late into the night, often as late as 11 o'clock. In this study, the average grazing period per day during the summer and winter averaged between 7 and 8 hours, whereas during the spring it averaged about 9 hours.

We found that when cattle began their day's grazing they started to move toward water, usually reaching it at about the close of the morning grazing period. They then watered out and either lay down in the shade at water or went out some little distance and shaded up until the afternoon. Some of the animals grazed throughout the grazing period in one general locality and then walked toward water without stopping. Likewise, in leaving water, some of the cattle grazed out while others went straight back to the portion of the range on which they were in the habit of grazing. (Please turn to p. 16)



CATTLE SEEK THE SHADE OF MESQUITE TREES DURING THE HOT SEASONS OF THE YEAR, AND AT SUCH TIMES EAT CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF THE BEANS AND LEAVES.



CATTLE GRAZE ALONG THE WASHES IN COLD OR WINDY WEATHER AND ALSO IN EARLY AND LATE SUMMER.

—Photos by U. S. Forest Service.

THREE TIMELY TOPICS— PRICES, PIRACY, POLITICS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

A TIMELY SLOGAN IS, "BUY CATTLE." If they were ever worth the hides on their backs, this is the moment. The wise guys have adopted that policy, some taking on steers dislodged prematurely from the feed bunker, others picking green cattle, of which current supply is seasonably short. No rush is in evidence—merely conservative purchasing at the new scale of prices, which is \$1 to \$3 per cwt. lower than the zenith stage, when greed for cattle carried values into the stratosphere. A procession of warmed-up steers is going back to the country from Chicago at \$7 to \$7.50 per cwt., investors replacing fat steers in this manner at prices suggestive of conservative investment. Slopers and canneries, with sagacity born of experience, are purchasing the few common steers available at \$6 to \$6.50, having laid out during the high time and finding themselves short at this juncture. Kentucky distillers have been unable to fill their requirements at Chicago; country stocker sales are in the suspension stage.

Prices Prettier

New prices are attractive, especially where quality is concerned. Realization that low levels have been uncovered is dawning. Buyers returning from western supply areas report the entire country closely sold up, both calves and yearlings, high prices during the summer and fall season having had a depleting influence. Should liquidation of feed-lot population continue, replacement for summer beef-making will assert itself. Thousands are anxious to unload high-costers to get in at the revised valuation and make a new start, with longer to go with the property.

Theo. H. Lampe, of Kansas City, figures out the replacement problem this way:

"Stock cattle are a good investment at this time. Looking over prices of Christmas weeks of 1935 and 1936, prices were then 25 to 50 cents per cwt. higher than right now. It is going to cost \$15 to \$20 per head less to winter steers this season than last—cost of a full feed is about half what it was then. This will reduce cost of a steer bought now at least \$1.50 to \$2 per cwt. by April 1 next compared with 1935 and 1936, and, analyzing it from this viewpoint, I cannot see where an investor is taking near the risk of the past two years. Of one thing he is reasonably certain: He will not need so much margin in the final accounting to make money."

One Best Bet

And that's that. Lampe has an uncanny fashion of figuring things out, and he has no monopoly of this dope. One best bet, as the race-track habitué puts it, is buying when values are down.

Those who evaded the recent replacement scramble displayed sound judgment. They are getting more cattle for their money now, and moths did not damage it meanwhile. Nor are they in competition with the erstwhile enthusiasts in the fat-steer alleys.

Current replacement is at low ebb. Each week's slaughter reduces the visible supply of fat cattle to that extent, and, unless beef trade shuts up like a clam at low tide, a time will come when killers will be riding the alleys at day-break. Changes are as repetitious as a traffic signal, and the darkest hour always precedes dawn. The fact should not be overlooked that the enormous



bovine pilgrimage from western breeding grounds to the maturing area did not create a single bullock. On the contrary, it reduced the visible supply west of the Missouri River, especially in the central and northern sections, to the lowest stage in many years, and that goes for cows, calves, yearlings, and two-year-old steers. Drought results have yet to be realized. This is consensus of all the opinion the writer has succeeded in assembling.

Piracy Prospers

Organized live-stock piracy, facilitated by the practical truck, still prospers. Local authorities, some possessing only enough detective capacity to track an elephant in the snow, are often impotent. Resultant loss to feeders and others is incalculable. Nothing is immune, the crooks converting a purebred dairy cow into inferior beef with the same energy as he does a fat steer or a drove of hogs. Meat bootlegging—a concomitant evil—thrives, country and even urban retailers handling the product without compunction. Charles H. Frye, the Seattle, Washington, packer, has propounded a remedy, sending the prescription to Secretary Wallace. He writes:

"Congress should protect growers and consumers from diseased, bootlegged meats, evasion of taxes, and the product

of tubercular and Bang's diseased animals by promptly enacting legislation designed to prevent evasion of BAI regulations and enforcing it with severe penalties."

Can Be Curbed

Compulsory compliance with BAI regulations would, in Mr. Frye's opinion:

Protect live-stock owners from thievery, which has become a national racket since truck transportation became available;

Wholly eliminate propagation of disease, to accomplish which the grower is now spending large sums;

Protect consumers against unsanitary conditions by bootleggers evading federal inspection, responsible for sending a heavy tonnage of beef and pork that should be tanked into distributive channels;

Prevent state and federal governments from being "gypped" in connection with slaughter of tubercular and Bang's diseased cows, which, he asserts, furnish bootleggers with a fertile field for operation. This element slaughters under deplorably unsanitary conditions, without supervision of carcass or viscera, which, with blood, is fed raw to poultry and hogs, further propagating disease.

Emphasizing these bootleg operations, Mr. Frye asserts that only 65 per cent of slaughter is at present under federal inspection; the other 35 per cent is five to nine times more diseased than the federal portion, and it naturally finds bootleg channels.

Under present meat inspection regulations, "farmers" have the right to slaughter animals, selling the meat direct to retailers or consumers.

Advocates Expanded Inspection

Frye advocates expansion of federal inspection, which, in his opinion, would eradicate 75 to 80 per cent of tuberculosis in poultry within three years; in hogs, within five years. He urges enactment of federal legislation defining a "farmer" as one primarily engaged in growing, raising, and harvesting agricultural products and who raises cattle, hogs, and sheep under his own control. He would require processors to slaughter farmers' live-stock and deliver at an established shipping dock carcasses, hides, tongues, liver, and hearts, retaining blood, viscera, feet, and heads for services, whole or in part.

He would impose penalties for offering for sale or having in possession any meats not federally inspected, or to feed blood or viscera to poultry or pigs unless carcasses have been federally inspected, except live stock for actual farm consumption. To pay the necessary inspection cost, he would levy a small tax on animals handled.

Another plank is compulsory public market sale of all tubercular and Bang's diseased cattle, killing under federal inspection; also complete records of all live-stock sales and purchases, regardless of where made.

The legal aspect of all this needs

consideration. Protest against invasion of states' rights will be abundantly on tap. Anticipating this, Mr. Frye has furnished the secretary with opinions by expert constitutional lawyers, too voluminous to be included in this story but emphatic as a voting landslide.

Traffic Extensive

Meat consumers have no conception of the extensive nature of illegal traffic in bootlegged meats—stolen, diseased, or otherwise. Wholesaled at low prices, unscrupulous retailers handle the product in enormous quantities. Tracing to the source is impossible. A feed-lot or pasture may be raided, nocturnally, with impunity, the plunder whisked miles away for slaughter or disposed of at crossroad auctions without serious danger of detection. Cows, suspected of disease, are beefed in anticipation of tests.

Local Enforcement Difficult

Dependence on local officials is futile. In many sections owners have been under the necessity of organized vigilantes. By the simple process of excluding all meats not federally inspected from commercial channels, piracy and skull-duggery would be dangerous, if not impossible, despite criminal tendency to take desperate chances. "Fake farmers" are numerous in the game. Small-town trade of this nature is enormous. Outlying urban sections handle substantial poundage. Whenever a stolen carcass is traced, the lair is invariably a butcher shop, the owner of which is able to assume the role of innocent purchaser without knowledge of the identity of the crooks involved. As ex-King Eddie remarked: "Something must be done." State and municipal meat inspection is obviously farcical and dominated by politics, graft, or both. Meat bootlegging is a growing evil, inimical alike to producer, processor, distributor, and consumer.

Garbage Another Evil

And another thing. The federal government should clamp down a lid on feeding hogs garbage—in other words, filth. The BAI has recently demonstrated that swine thus handled are responsible for recrudescence of trichinosis, of which numerous cases, fatal and otherwise, have recently been reported. This is desirable not only for sanitary, but for commercial, reasons. Garbage-feeding plants are foul spots on the map. Near Chicago is a pest spot of this character where fertilizer refuse is the main diet. The output competes with healthy farm-grown pork. The only contention in its favor is that it creates a market for stock pigs.

Not a scrap of this argument is suggestive of government interference with business, and consequently it may not be popular; but the sanitary and crime repression features will not be disputed.

By this time, Congress has resumed chattering on farm legislation if imperative instructions to put it over have not been complied with. Save and except from Farm Bureau sources, opposition to the compulsion phase is practically unanimous, although latent. That a set of processing taxes is concealed up the capacious sleeve of those responsible is more than a suspicion. If enactment of a compulsion measure is inevitable, the sooner agrarian atmosphere is clarified, the better it will be for all concerned. The public is weary of being obfuscated with conversation, which recalls an episode during a recent fruitless transportation confab at Bagdad on the Potomac. After two consecutive days had been wasted in verbal wrangling, the chairman called on Carl Gray, of the Union Pacific, to spray oil on the troubled water. Gray told of an Omaha boy in delicate health who secured a farm job for recuperative purposes. Early the first morning the farmer told him to feed the stock. Returning at the sound of the breakfast gong, the boy reported the task complete.

"What did you feed 'em?" asked the farmer.

"Hay," replied the youngster.

"Gave horses, cattle, and sheep hay?"

"Yes, and plenty of it."

"What about the hogs and poultry?"

"Gave them hay, too."

"Well, how did it work out?"

"Damfino, but they're doing a lot of talking about it."

Robs Peter to Pay Paul

A letter from Representative Fred Cummings, of Colorado, is illuminating. In part it reads:

"The agricultural committee of the House has spent more than four weeks drafting a farm bill. It is almost impossible to take care of every branch of the agricultural industry without some objectionable features. It is impossible to give everybody everything they want without taking something away from somebody, if you will excuse this awkward phrase."

Cummings said a mouthful, condensing the matter to a few sentences. It is another case of purloining from Peter to reimburse Paul. Some element is going to be subject to deprivation when Congress acts, and, unless radical amending is done, the live-stock industry will figure in the role of "deprivee." Meat production is to be controlled through the corn crib. So far no menace of this nature has been directed toward poultry, for the obvious reason that any such attempt would arouse the concentrated ire of farm femininity, which even the toughest hided, hardest boiled champion of the masses would hesitate to brave.

During the past 30 days, the writer has conversed with hundreds of live-stock feeders and breeders, failing to elicit a single favorable opinion of the compulsory idea; but few of them reach the congressional auricular appendage.

ARGENTINE PACT CONFIRMATION OPPOSED

PROTESTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA Cattlemen's Association, the California Wool Growers' Association, the local live-stock organization headquartered at Livermore, California, the American National Live Stock Association, and individual growers have been presented to directors of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce against adoption by that body of recommendations urging imports of meat and meat products from Argentina.

Request for favorable consideration of the matter was submitted to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce by a local industry "that has found it impossible to sell merchandise in Argentina because of discrimination set up in retaliation to the existing embargo on Argentine cattle and cattle products."

Declaration by the American National on the subject is contained in a letter addressed to the president of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce by Secretary F. E. Mollin. It reads:

"For the past two years the American National Live Stock Association has been leading the fight against ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention. We have had generous support, not only from the organized live-stock industry, but from many civic organizations as well. I do not need to remind you that the live-stock industry is the most important industry of the western country. It is not so commonly realized, however, that, according to Department of Commerce listing of the 10 foremost manufacturing industries of the country, meat packing ranks first, followed in order by petroleum refining, steel works and roller mill products, with motor vehicles in fourth position. In view of the recognized importance of the industry, it was with some surprise that we learned that the Foreign Trade Committee of your chamber had gone on record urging ratification of the Argentine convention. While we can realize the interest of that committee in the development of foreign trade, we cannot understand that your body would be willing to secure that development at the risk of a major disaster to the live-stock industry.

"I can assure you that the threat of foot-and-mouth disease in the event of the ratification of the Argentine pact is no idle one. Furthermore, California, due to its location on the coast, would be in more immediate danger than other sections of the country, as imports of foreign meats would be distributed from your important ports. At the present time foot-and-mouth disease is raging in England and in a number of the countries of central and southern Europe. In France, for instance, according to a late report, more than 16,000 premises were infected. Any possible benefit which might come to some small export manufacturing concern located in your section of the country would be a drop in the bucket compared with the damage which would be done, not only to

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the live-stock and dairy industries of your state in the event of foot-and-mouth disease, but to all industries. There must be members in your organization who recall the paralyzing effect on business that resulted from the general quarantines which accompanied the outbreaks in 1924 and 1925.

"I realize that the National Foreign Trade Council has put out propaganda in support of the Argentine convention which is designed to mislead your members and to make them believe that the proposed convention could be ratified without danger. You have no doubt been advised that ratification of the convention would mean only imports from Patagonia and that there was no foot-and-mouth disease in Patagonia, and that this region was so isolated that there was absolutely no danger of foot-and-mouth disease reaching its herds and flocks. None of these statements, which have been widely distributed, are correct. There is not a word about Patagonia in the Argentine sanitary convention. It could apply to any section of Argentina which might temporarily be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease. Patagonia is not isolated. We learn that there is a great highway just being finished which will run clear from Buenos Aires to the southern tip of the country. There is, or has been recently, according to official sanitary reports of the Argentine government, foot-and-mouth disease in the two northern provinces of the four which are ordinarily considered to comprise the undefined region of Patagonia.

"You can rest assured that, if the Argentina sanitary convention is ever ratified, foot-and-mouth disease will eventually contaminate the herds and flocks of this country. We might be lucky enough to escape it temporarily, but only temporarily. If that time comes, California will be one of the principal sufferers: and, while in the past our efficient Bureau of Animal Industry has always succeeded in eradicating the several outbreaks which have occurred, with modern conditions of good highways and fast trucks, and with auction markets springing up in mushroom growth all over the country, the problem of eradication would be tremendously increased.

"Figures showing in millions of dollars our exports and imports to and from Argentina for 1936 and the first 10 months of 1937, have just come to hand:

	1936	1937 (10 mos.)
Exports to Argentina.....	\$56	\$75
Imports from Argentina.....	65	128

"They do not indicate that Argentina has anything to be offended about. She has the long end of the deal.

"Information by wire from the Bureau of Agriculture Economics as to exports of manufacture shows:

"Statistical Abstract Department of Commerce shows nearly 5 per cent domestic manufactured products exported in 1933, latest available information, compared with average nearly 8 per cent 1929 and earlier years."

"In other words, our domestic market for this commodity far outshadows shipments abroad.

"May I express the hope that your official body will fail to confirm the finding of your Foreign Trade Committee."

REGULATIONS AFFECTING LIVE STOCK*

BY A. D. BROWNFIELD

IN A GENERAL WAY THERE ARE two kinds of regulations affecting the live-stock industry. The first are regulations—either voluntary or by law—to protect producers directly which pretty generally originate with producers themselves. Second are regulations, perhaps really broader in aspect, designed to protect not only producers but, to some extent, the welfare of the public.

The first kind of regulation is again of two general types: First are those imposed by producers' consent, which in many instances have been so long observed that they have almost the effect of law and in some states have legal support. For illustration, registration of purebred animals and truth about pedigrees, and other rules and customs of breed associations.

Customs Become Law

Some of these customs have been enacted into law. That is especially true in the range country in control of stock driveways, distance of daily stock movement, standard of quality of cattle turned on open range, and the like.

Type number two of the first class of regulations is made up, in the main, of laws enacted, some state and some national, at request of the producer. Originally, regulations of interstate movements were usually of national origin.

Some examples of state regulations are brand registrations, inspection, recording. Whether we realize it or not, such laws are restrictions on the industry and cause extra work and expense and sometimes hardships; but every stockman realizes their necessity. An interesting thing about these regulations is that the expense is generally, if not entirely, borne by the live-stock group. Stockmen realize that such services are for their own protection, and they bear the expense.

Another type of protective regulation is found in sanitary laws for control and eradication of tuberculosis, inspection of infected stock, regulations for movement to market and to other states, federal and state regulations on tick control, restrictions against importations of stock or meats from countries where dangerous diseases exist.

In the latter field, we have a kind of mass interest, and tuberculosis is of importance to the stockman and to the public. Probably it was because of this dual interest and the complicated nature of the problems that the making and enforcement of these regulations was placed in the hands of veterinarians with some practical experience.

* Summarized from recent address of Mr. Brownfield, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, delivered at a conference on business and government at the University of New Mexico.

So far as is known, regulations for general economic purposes, especially protection from losses, have never been drawn by individuals. There is quite a difference between control measures designed to regulate production and prices, which measures are left in the hands of, let us call them, businessmen, and control measures for the protection of the industry from losses due to disease, which measures are drawn by veterinarians for the purpose of controlling disease.

The latter regulations are imposed after careful consideration by scientists and others. The stockman supports such programs even though they cost him money, because he realizes their value to the industry and to society.

The tuberculosis control laws, I think,

(Continued on page 20)

STOCKMEN'S CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF the Fresno County Cattlemen's Association, held in San Diego, California, Sig Hobler, of Sanger, was elected president; Arthur Bartlett, of Clovis, vice-president, and R. O. Johnson, of Del Piedra, secretary-treasurer. Speakers at the gathering included Earl Schlaman, of the Pacific States Live Stock Marketing Association, and President Hugh Baber and Secretary John Curry, of the California Cattlemen's Association.

* * *

Officers chosen at the annual meeting of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, held at Chicago on December 1-2, were Charles Redd, of LaSal, Utah, president, and Edward Sargent, of Chama, New Mexico, vice-president. Directors Worth S. Lee, of Mountain Home, Idaho; Clair Hotchkiss, of Hotchkiss, Colorado; Floyd W. Lee, of San Mateo, New Mexico; James H. Lemmon, South Dakota; and Frank Lebus, of Cynthiana, Kentucky, were made members of the Executive Committee.

* * *

A paid brand inspector should be furnished for each county in Colorado, according to resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Blue River Cattle Growers' Association (Colorado). Such inspector, the group said, should satisfy himself that the person moving live stock from one county to another has legal possession of the animals, and the inspector should collect a legal fee for inspection.

* * *

Meeting with packers in Chicago in December was a committee of wool growers and feeders interested in tackling the "one-price" buying problem and avoiding violent price fluctuations. Growers' contention was that too many lambs were bought at one price and too little attention was paid to quality.

They felt that lambs should be sold on merit and quality rather than quantity. While no definite conclusion was arrived at, it was felt the meeting had created better understanding between packers, commission men, and growers.

* * *

Officers elected at meeting on December 18 of the Rock Springs Cattle Growers' Association, were John Kent, president; T. E. Ickes, vice-president; and Mrs. Henry Kappas, secretary—all of the Rock Springs, Wyoming, section.

* * *

Resolutions adopted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, meeting in Chicago in mid-December, opposed the measures providing for six-hour work-day for railroad employees, full train-crew on all runs and types of trains, and limitation of size of trains, because such laws would lead to an increase in freight rates. Among other measures adopted were: Demand for agricultural subsidies from the government equivalent to those extended to industry and labor; stand against bureaucratic or government direction of rural electrification because such developments should be placed under a board of direction which "understands sound business operation;" indorsement of compulsory crop control.

* * *

The executive board of the National Live Stock Exchange, in semi-annual meeting held at Chicago during International Live Stock Exposition week, adopted a resolution opposing the Argentine sanitary convention. Passage of the wage-hour bill, if its provisions are to apply to market agencies, packers, and stock yards, was opposed on the ground that these agencies, serving agriculture, are exempt.

* * *

Mohave County (Arizona) Live Stock Growers' Association held its annual election meeting December 11, at which T. G. Walter, of Hackberry, was named president; Lisle Henefin, of Hackberry, vice-president; Lu-Olive Gaddis, of Kingman, secretary; and H. B. Gaddis, of Kingman, treasurer.

* * *

Executive committeemen of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, representing every county in the state, met in Cheyenne in mid-December to map plans for a new counter-offense in the war on rustlers, to discuss the coming convention in Cheyenne of the American National Live Stock Association, and to decide claims for stray cattle picked up at national markets.

* * *

Between 50 and 55 calves were donated by members of the Rio Blanco Stock Growers' Association (Colorado) for carrying on the work of local, state, and national associations. Last year the

Rio Blanco association, pioneer in Colorado of the "give-a-calf" plan, sold 54 calves in an auction for association financing purposes.

* * *

The board of directors of the California Wool Growers' Association on December 10 expressed opposition to the proposed 70-car train limit bill, endorsing a resolution to that effect adopted at the recent convention of the association. The board also asked investigation of the wool top futures market at New York, expressing opinion that the exchange's present method of operating is detrimental to American wool growers.

* * *

J. T. Baker, of Fort Stockton, was named president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association at the recent annual meeting of that body. Adolph Steiler, of Comfort, was chosen first vice-president, and Julian Real, of Kerr County, second vice-president.

Resolutions included request for truth-in-fabrics legislation and opposition to increase in freight rates, further restrictions on trucks, and Capper anti-marketing legislation. The association gave \$2,000 to the support of the Associated Wool Industries and stressed importance of wool and mohair advertising.

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

HUGH BABER, OF CHICO, CALIFORNIA, was re-elected president of the California Cattlemen's Association at the twenty-first annual convention of that body, held in San Francisco, December 10-11. Harvey Russell, of Madera, was elected vice-president, and John Curry, of San Francisco, retained as secretary.

Speakers included E. Clemens Horst, of San Francisco; Dr. C. U. Duckworth, chief of the state's division of animal industry; Dr. W. E. Howe, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Sacramento; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; Gerald B. Thorne, of Chicago, representing Wilson & Company; Fred Cronemiller, assistant regional forester; and W. B. Parker, secretary of the state soil conservation committee.

Resolutions adopted opposed—

- Increase in freight rates;
- Processing tax;
- Argentine sanitary pact;
- Further tariff reduction on live stock or products or in duty or excise tax on imported oils (and requested "spreading" of imports from Canada);
- Single tax;
- One-horse legislature;
- State truck regulating law of 1935;
- Withdrawal of further public lands for national parks or other purposes or extension of deer or antelope refuges (with request that killing of does be permitted until numbers are balanced);

Transfer of Forest Service from Department of Agriculture;

Compulsory Bang's eradication program for beef cattle (but urged efforts be made to perfect means of control of disease);

And favored—

- Principles of Pettengill bill;
- McCarran national animal-theft bill;
- Federal beef-grading law;
- Sales tax;
- Restriction to lessen imports of canned beef;
- Adequate fire protection where ranch properties adjoin roads.

Other resolutions asked that more Forest Service funds be used for water development and meadow erosion control and less for roads; that state foresters' brush-burning program be continued; that inspectors' state-owned cars be equipped with sirens and red lights to aid in apprehending rustlers; and that a committee be named to investigate packer feeding of cattle.

Opposition to the train-limit bill was expressed by the board of directors, which also resolved in favor of co-operation with authorities in the tuberculosis program, with the request that testing be done at convenience of operator and that reactors be marketed so as to cause the least disturbance in the market. The directors opposed the Soil Conservation Act "as now administered." A convention resolution asked for application to California of soil-saving practices proposed by the state conservation committee.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 26-28—Convention National Wool Growers' Ass'n, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Feb. 1-2—Convention Arizona Cattle Growers' Ass'n, Prescott, Ariz.
- Feb. 17-22—Tucson Live Stock Show and Auction Sale, Tucson, Ariz.
- Feb. 21-24—Southwestern Live Stock Show, El Paso, Tex.
- Feb. 24-26—Southwest Texas Boys' Fat Stock Show, San Antonio.
- Feb. 26-Mar. 6—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1—Hereford Round-Up Sale, Kansas City, Mo.
- Mar. 2-4—Convention Kansas Live Stock Ass'n, Wichita, Kan.
- Mar. 4-8—San Angelo Fat Stock Show and Rodeo, San Angelo, Tex.
- Mar. 7-10—Amarillo Fat Stock Show, Amarillo, Tex.
- Mar. 8-10—Convention Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n, San Antonio.
- Mar. 11-20—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Mar. 21-24—Southwest American Fat Stock Show, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- June 7-9—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, No. Salt Lake, Utah.

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TRADE PACT TROUBLES

BEWILDERMENT OF AGRICULTURAL producers increases as they watch development of two converse policies of the present administration: One, the policy of restricting production, coupled with many moves that result in increased costs all along the line. The other, the policy of lowering the tariff, piece by piece, through reciprocal trade agreements, thereby increasing competition and lowering price on products of American farms and ranches.

No one has ever contended that agriculture was given notice that it was to be traded away when the Reciprocal Trade Act was passed. The intention to include products of the farm and ranch, produced in ample supply for domestic consumption, was kept carefully under cover. Then, bit by bit, the plan was unfolded, accompanied by garrulous explanations of how American agriculture would benefit as the tariff on its products was reduced.

It was notable that the early trade agreements were made largely with countries seeking our markets for their surplus agricultural products. Such agreements were easy to negotiate. Agriculture was asked to be patient. Agreements would soon be made with countries that are deficit producers; thus we would find outlet for our surplus agricultural products and be recompensed for the sacrifices that we made.

In particular, it was urged that we would benefit from a trade agreement with Great Britain, and many who had doubted the wisdom of the policy as a whole were hopeful that these claims would prove to be justified.

Now that negotiations with Great Britain have been announced, this feel-

ing of optimism has given way to one of pessimism. In the first place, coupled with the announcement was notice that the Canadian agreement is to be reopened. In other words, Great Britain is to demand further concessions to Canada as part of the price to be paid. In addition, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in commenting on the plan says:

"As the United Kingdom purchases from three to four times as much from the United States as the United States purchases from the United Kingdom, the approximate value of the concessions to be secured from America should be three to four times the value of those granted to America."

What further price must we pay? What further surpluses do English Colonies wish to unload on the American market at our expense? It begins to look as though the British will insist on outrading us—otherwise there will be no deal.

With all this in contemplation, the chief of our Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Secretary of Agriculture issue statements warning that domestic surpluses again threaten to become burdensome, although following only one good crop year.

Where will we be a year from now if 1938 should produce reasonably abundant crops? How can we absorb any more foreign surpluses with our own already a problem, with the government already supporting the corn and cotton markets, and with live-stock markets slipping day by day? What sense is there in Congress wrestling with a farm bill to provide a reasonable degree of protection to American producers, while the Secretary of State simultaneously busies himself scaling down the tariffs and increasing competition?

The American farmer and stockman have an inherent right "to go some place" in this world of ours. But they will remain forever bogged down unless these various arms of the government can get together on a program that protects the home market. We cannot live on a free trade basis, with operating costs the highest in the world. Whatever benefits may accrue from expanding our foreign commerce, trading off agriculture for the benefit of industry—robbing Peter to pay Paul—can no longer be justified on any basis.

A FARM BILL AMENDMENT

THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE discussion of the farm bill amendment which restricts the use of contracted acres to the planting of soil-building and soil-conserving crops or to the production of commodities for consumption on the farm. But the acres may not be used for production for market. As used in the amendment, "for market" means "for disposition by sale, barter, exchange, or gift or by feeding

(in any form) to poultry or live stock which, or the products of which, are to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or given away." In other words, the contracted acres cannot be used for growing feeds to produce commercially poultry or poultry products, or live stock or live-stock products. The main live-stock products affected by the amendment are, of course, dairy products.

It has been contended that this provision would place an impossible burden upon the administrators of the act, and that it could not be adequately policed. However, the majority of the members of both houses of Congress have accepted it, and it must now be taken into consideration. This is on the assumption, of course, that the conference committee will be able to adjust the differences between the House and the Senate bills in due course.

But even granting that the amendment is difficult of administration, it is quite likely that it is no more so than the original bills to which it is attached. A great many members of Congress—the majority, in fact—profess themselves completely unable to understand the new farm bills, and no one seems to have any particular idea as to what its cost will be. Guesses range from \$500,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000.

More important, however, is the fact that the amendment referred to serves notice on the administration and the farm organization, both of which sponsored the new farm bills, that we are far enough past the emergency to need no ill-considered legislation that will benefit particular groups of producers and particular sections of the country without regard to the inevitable effects on other groups of producers or sections of the country. The live-stock, dairy, and poultry industries have already suffered from increased competition brought about by the unrestricted use of contracted acres.

If the legislation is to be permanent, some method must be found of reaching the desired end without doing it at the expense, partially at least, of other groups who have sufficient burdens of their own to bear. The Boileau-McNary amendment may not be the right answer, but it unerringly points to the weak spot in the present program, and, before it is discarded, some other way should be found to meet the situation complained of.

Phil McClure

PHIL McCLURE, VETERAN Rancher, of Thermopolis, Wyoming, passed away at his home December 7 at the age of 65. He had been a member of the American National Live Stock Association for the past seven years. The only surviving relative, according to information available, is a sister who made her home at the McClure ranch.

GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON NOTES

THE STATUS OF THE PRESIDENT's legislative program as the second regular session of the 75th Congress opened on January 2, as briefly stated by the *Associated Press*, was: Crop control legislation—passed both Senate and House and under study by a joint conference committee seeking to adjust differences; government reorganization—passed in part the House and scheduled for early Senate consideration; housing—passed by both houses and pending before a conference committee; regional planning—before Senate and House committees; wage-hour regulation—previously passed by Senate and pending in a House committee; reduction of federal highway spending—awaited introduction of bills; tax revision—near stage of public hearings by a House committee; anti-trust legislation—presidential recommendations to come.

Going beyond status into outlook, other press reports indicate: Crop control—although complicated bills, regulating corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, and rice crops, have been passed, the farm control legislation sent to conference is only in embryonic stage; housing—the law to entice private capital into the build-a-house game will have quick egress, because House-Senate differences are not too great; wage-hour—revived and revised plan will be adopted by the House if the measure can be squeezed out of committee; tax revision—change in laws, to help out little corporations in the graduated tax on undistributed profits, are in the making, the tax to continue to apply to the big, closely held companies; anti-lynching—at present the bill is again the object of a Senate filibuster; Supreme Court—another vacancy, created by announcement of retirement of Associate Justice Sutherland, means end of the President's reorganization effort.

President Roosevelt estimated the net deficit for the 1938 fiscal year at \$1,088,129,600 and for the 1939 fiscal year at \$949,606,000—with the prospect that each may be greater. His budget message asked for a record peace-time national defense appropriation of more than \$1,000,000,000 and another \$1,000,000,000 for work relief in the next fiscal year. He said that the national debt would rise to \$38,528,200,000 by June, 1939. The 1939 budget proposed to reduce spending \$539,000,000—cutting items such as highways, new public buildings, and new reclamation and rivers and harbor projects. Receipts in the 1939 fiscal year were estimated at \$5,919,437,000. Successive reduction of

deficits from \$4,360,600,000 of the fiscal year 1936, \$2,707,400,000 in 1937, \$1,088,100,000 estimated for 1938, to \$950,000,000 estimated for 1939 were pointed out.

Answer to the administration's demand for revision of the anti-trust laws to curb monopolies is to be found in the new O'Mahoney-Borah federal licensing bill for corporations engaged in interstate commerce, according to supporters of the bill. Fair trade practices required under the proposal would include regulation of wages and hours of labor, prevention of exploitation of investors, and prevention of combinations in restraint of trade.

Defeated on the floor of the House on January 10, the Ludlow resolution which would require a national referendum before declaration of war by the United States, except in case of invasion of this country, was pigeonholed for the remainder of the present session. The resolution was opposed by President Roosevelt.

Following Supreme Court decision rejecting attacks on the validity of Public Works Administration loans and grants to municipalities for construction of power systems, Attorney General Homer S. Cummings announced that the government would seek immediate dissolution of injunctions blocking PWA plans to give industry a \$146,917,808 "shot in the arm" through construction of 61 public power projects.

Federal expenditures under the farm purchase provision of the Farm Tenant Act will be concentrated immediately in the Great Plains area, Secretary Wallace has announced. Title three of the act directs the secretary to "develop a program of land conservation and land utilization, including the retirement of lands which are submarginal or not primarily suitable for cultivation." To administer the land purchase program \$10,000,000 has been made available this fiscal year. Eighty per cent of the money to be spent for land this year will be in the Great Plains area.

A thousand items of imports on which tariff concessions may be granted are listed in announcement by Secretary Hull of intention to negotiate a trade agreement with Great Britain. The British Colonial Empire and Newfoundland are to be included in the agreement, but the dominions, Ireland, and India are to be excluded. The list of exports on which Great Britain may grant tariff concessions has not yet been issued.

The project of eradicating bovine tuberculosis, now in its twentieth year, has resulted so far in the testing of practically all cattle in 46 states and reducing the malady to the vanishing point, says John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, in his annual report, which also states that the campaign of voluntary testing for Bang's disease is now in its fourth year, and investigations of other methods of controlling the disease are being continued; that during the fiscal year, 11,418 cattle for breeding purposes were imported; that meat-inspection service for the fiscal year involved the inspection of 71,000,000 food animals; and that total meat inspected for importation exceeded that of the previous year by 23,500,000 pounds, notwithstanding the simultaneous large increase in domestic slaughter.

Dr. J. C. McDowell, for the past ten years head of the division of dairy herd improvement investigations in the Bureau of Animal Industry, retired from government service December 31, 1937, after 30 years in the Department of Agriculture. Dr. McDowell played an important role in promoting the cow-testing movement for dairy animals, which provides information for proving herd sires and selecting outstanding breeding animals for improving the general level of production.

A temporary commercial arrangement between the United States and Italy, effective December 16, provides for an exchange of most-favored-nation treatment of commerce between the two countries, announces the Department of State. The arrangement, necessitated by the expiration on December 15 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1871 between the United States and Italy, is of a general character and contains no specific reductions or bindings of the import treatment of any individual commodities on either side.

About 5,000,000 acres of Indian reservation land in eight states have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs as "quiet zones" in which motor cars and motor roads are taboo. The largest area is the 1,590,000-acre Rainbow Bridge region on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and Utah.

LIVINGSTON GETS SETBACK IN PRIORITY RULE SUIT

THE JOSEPH F. LIVINGSTON "priority rule" suit, attacking validity of regulations under the Taylor Grazing Act, naming Director of Grazing Carpenter and Regional Grazier Moore as defendants, was dismissed by United States District Judge J. Foster Symes on the grounds that such action must be

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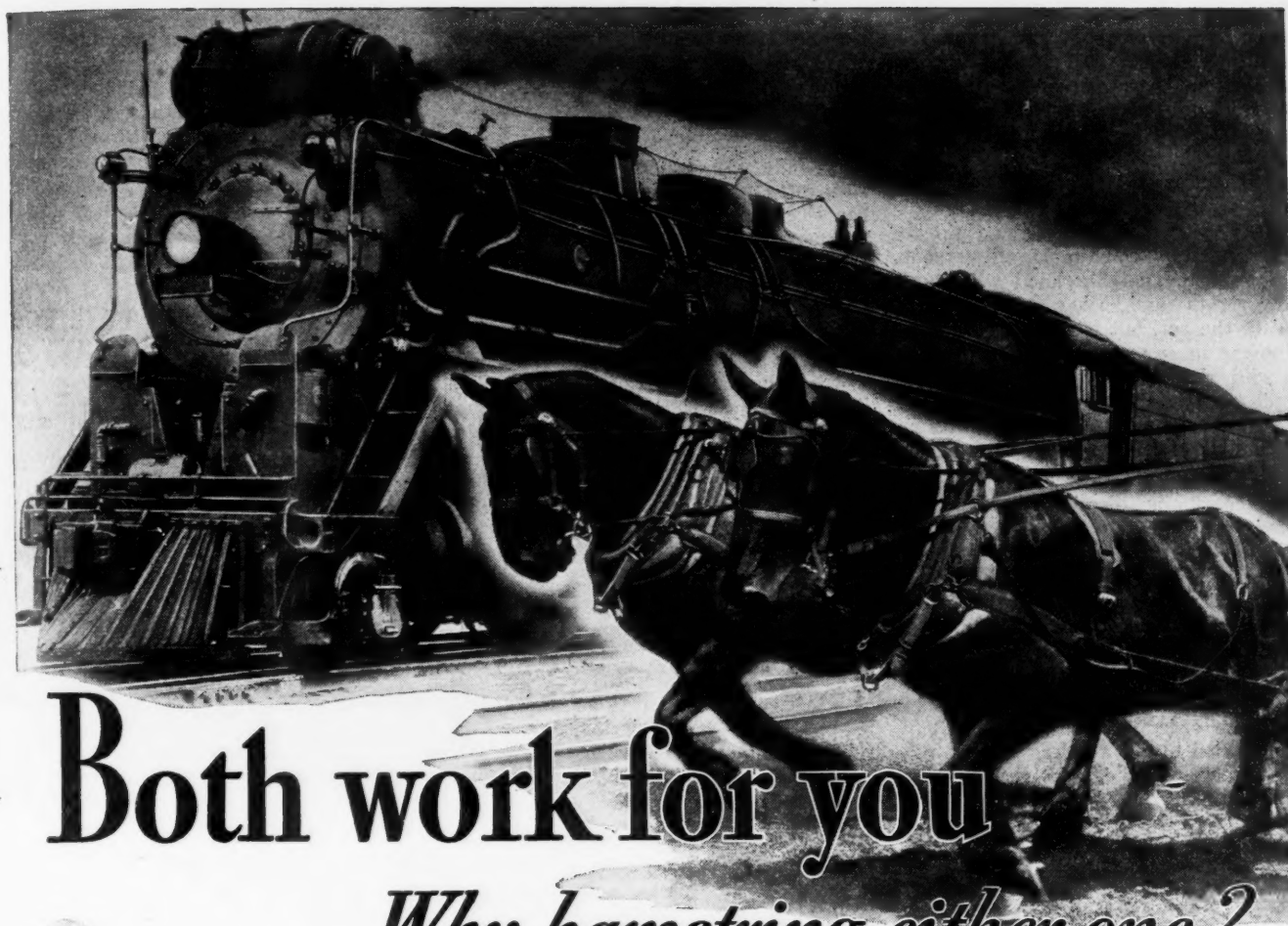
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Both work for you

Why hamstring either one?



YOU know what a job a team, or tractor or truck does on your farm.

You know how you'd feel if somebody tried to pass a law limiting the number of plows you could pull behind a tractor—or the work you could do with a team.

But did you know that the railroads that take your crops to market are being threatened with just that kind of law?

For the past fifteen years, the railroads have been steadily improving their service.

They've developed bigger locomotives—straightened curves—reduced grades—laid thousands of miles of heavier rails—to give you and other shippers better service.

That's why you didn't hear any talk about "car shortage" last summer, when American farmers had one of the biggest wheat crops in years.

All right, then, what would you think of a law forcing railroads to use two trains instead of one—by limiting the number of freight cars an engine can pull?

Such a law would unnecessarily increase the cost of transportation. That has a direct bearing on freight rates.

It would also force railroad service back to a level of several years ago.

This bill to hamstring the railroads is called the TRAIN LIMIT BILL. It has passed the United States Senate and is now before the House of Representatives.

It is called a "safety" measure—yet the fact is, the railroads have reduced accidents to employees by nearly three-fourths during the same years that modern long trains were being developed to give you faster, better service.

There is no real reason why this bill should become a law—and a lot of common sense against it.

In your own interest it will pay you to keep an eye on railroad regulation bills introduced in Congress or in your own state—and make yourself heard.

ASSOCIATION OF

AMERICAN RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SAFETY FIRST—
friendliness too!

directed against the Secretary of the Interior.

Livingston, sheepman of Craig, Colorado, was refused a Taylor permit because he had not grazed his sheep on public lands in the district for two years prior to passage of the Taylor Grazing Act.

"The Taylor law carries the right to graze on public domain to all persons residing in the neighborhood who have water rights and other qualifications listed in the act, but it does not provide the power to say who shall be licensed and who shall not, just because they haven't been in the neighborhood a certain length of time," Livingston's attorney said. The rule needed the sanction of Congress, was the argument.

The court in dismissing the suit pointed out that the Secretary of the Interior is empowered to promulgate rules regulating issuance of grazing permits and therefore subordinates could not properly be named defendants in a legal attack on such rules.

Livingston, in the district by virtue of a temporary injunction against application of the order preventing him from grazing, tried to get a ruling permitting him to keep his sheep in the district until an appeal could be settled. The court dissolved the injunction but granted Livingston 30 days' time to remove his sheep.

* * *

J. Samuel Freeman, Jr., of Dillon, Montana, was the recipient of the first official permission to use the public range for a term of years, in accordance with section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. His new lease authorizes utilization of about 1,000 acres of public domain for grazing purposes during the next five years. The General Land Office, vested with authority to continue supervision over the use of the area, is administering 55,000,000 acres of public domain which are divided into such small parcels and so scattered as to location as to preclude their inclusion in the general public range system. Grazing operations on these sections have been controlled

through issuance of approximately 4,000 temporary one-year licenses. Plans contemplate replacement of these temporary leases with term permits.

* * *

Amendments to the Taylor Grazing Act, introduced in the House on December 13, would, says the *Wyoming Wool Grower*, "provide not only for the legal election of members of advisory boards but give the district advisory boards power to recommend issuance or rejection of permits and allocations of range as well as to recommend necessary rules and regulations for administration of the grazing districts, and provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall give consideration to the recommendations of the advisory boards, and, in the event such recommendations are not approved, shall assign his reasons therefor."

FEDERAL LOANS SHOW DROP IN 1937

TOTAL LOANS IN 1937 THROUGH institutions operating under the Farm Credit Administration, aggregated \$653,000,000, compared with \$677,000,000 in 1936, reports the Farm Credit Administration.

Most of the new money borrowed was used for crop and live-stock production and other short term purposes, it was declared. Borrowing on farm mortgages declined, but this was largely offset by increased mortgage lending by other creditors, notably commercial banks and life insurance companies. Farmers ended the year with a slightly larger percentage of loans in good standing.

Total farm mortgage loans by all classes of creditors aggregated \$577,000,000 during the first nine months of 1937, compared with \$605,000,000 in the 1936 period. Excluding the land banks and land bank commissioner, other types of creditors lent \$496,000,000 on farm mortgages during the first nine months—a 10 per cent increase over the 1936 period.

Farmers borrowed some \$286,000,000

from the 550 co-operative associations for crop and live-stock production in 1937, compared with \$228,000,000 in 1936. Commercial banks also apparently made more short-term loans to farmers. Farmers co-operative marketing and purchasing associations borrowed \$99,000,000, compared with \$81,000,000, in 1936.

MEAT BOARD AND PACKERS SPREAD MEAT PUBLICITY

PUBLICITY DESIGNED TO GET meat back to a prominent place on public tables is being spread over the country by the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the Institute of American Meat Packers.

Faced by falling live-stock prices in recent weeks, leaders in the industry are endeavoring to rebuild public confidence in meat to counteract unfavorable "sky high" price publicity of several months ago. The plan is an outgrowth of suggestion by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, at a recent meeting of the Meat Board that an appropriation be set aside from Board funds.

The present campaign is being carried on through a wide range of channels. All branches of the industry are being called on to help in the effort, newspapers are asked to co-operate, and hotels, restaurants, and dining cars urged to feature meat on menus.

FARM PRODUCTS INDEX SHOWS SHARP DROP

INDIX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY farmers for their products stood at 104 per cent of prewar in mid-December—3 points lower than a month earlier, 22 points below a year ago, and 27 points under the January, 1937, high—the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported.

Grains and dairy products gained during the month ending December 15, but all other major groups declined. Cotton and cottonseed prices dropped slightly; meat animals were down sharply, continuing the decline which has been in evidence in recent months; chickens and eggs dropped at a time when an advance normally takes place.

Compared with December, 1936, dairy products and truck crops were the only groups showing higher prices. Of the other groups, grain prices were 48 points lower, cotton and cottonseed down 41, fruit down 17, meat animals down 11, and chickens and eggs down 6 points.

Index of prices paid by farmers for commodities they buy, the bureau said, stood at 128 per cent of prewar in mid-December, having shown no change in the month.

On December 15, the ratio of prices received by farmers to prices paid was

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Choicest blood-lines; outstanding individuals; raised under actual range conditions

T. E. MITCHELL & SON

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MARKETS

THE UNEXPECTED HAS HAPPENED

BY J. E. P.

SEMI-DEMORALIZATION SQUAT-ted all over the fat-cattle market at the inception of 1938, the downward trend of values continuing with no sign of a check. Killers, confident of abundance during the January-to-March period, apply constant pressure. The course of price events has gone into reverse compared with the corresponding period of 1937, when the trend was distinctly upward, culminating in the September boom.

A year ago, \$8.50 to \$12.50 bought the bulk of fed steers; under present conditions, \$8 to \$10 is the market, specialties realizing \$10.50 to \$11.75, and the better the cattle are, the more difficulty salesmen experience in getting them over the scales. Cheap cattle, \$7.50 down, have several reliable outlets, due to scarcity, demand for low-grade beef, and stocker demand. Specialties are scarce, otherwise they would be down in the rut. One load of prime heavies at \$11.75, the next at \$10.50 tells the story of how the long-feds have vanished and how restricted is current demand for them.

New Start

Feeders are now reconciled to what they realize is in store. Cattle are coming to market in decidedly improved condition each week, and, naturally, they are anxious to unload, take their trimming, and make a new start—meaning continuous replacement demand, especially for green cattle, which will be accentuated by an early use of grass. How far the decline will go is unpredictable, but every movement has a bumping post; nothing is static, and a turn of the road is inevitable. Even at the present level, killers insist that fat cattle are out of line with what they are realizing for beef carcasses and hides. A stagnant hide market is an aggravation, with no indication of early improvement. Killers are implacable, having acquired a habit of bidding lower even on light receipts. "Get 'em down" is the constant front-office injunction. Killers are now working on a crop of steers, fed, on the best corn nature ever turned out of its crucible, three to four months, making excellent yields, the product good enough for any trade. New York insists on getting kosher steers at \$9 to \$9.50, and is making that grade. A package of "snipes" is a prize.

Light Product Popular

Heifers are equal to a better performance than steers, \$8.50 to \$9.50 taking the pick of the crop; \$7 to \$8.25, a host of short-feds; and \$6 to \$6.75, the pee-wee delegation. Because consumers are

practicing economy, light product finds constant call. Canning and cutting cows at \$3.75 to \$5 get action; any kind of a bull from \$5.50 to \$6.75 finds ready sale; but fat cows are neglected, few selling above \$6. Seasonal scarcity maintains a \$10-to-\$12 veal calf market, which is somewhat surprising when the meat is in competition with cheap lamb.

Underlying the stocker trade is a strong tone. Those who did not buy at the high time and have been impatiently awaiting a bargain sale meanwhile are in the market, especially for light, green steers to rough through the winter and feed out next summer. Sealing corn on the government loan, coupled with the advance in cottonseed products, has created apprehension of higher gain cost.

Business Follows Beef

Discussing prospects under existing conditions is obviously futile. Until beef moves freely into distributive channels, improvement is impossible. Beef has always been designated as a barometer of general business conditions, so that business must be in a bad way unless the rule is inoperative.

Right now a good steer goes begging for bids, while dairy-yard refuse gets a glad-hand; likewise, any kind of a bull. Obviously hot-dogs are finding a good demand, and common meat enjoys a broad outlet after passing through a grinder. "Bow-wows," "yellowhammers," "heretics," and their fellows are in the spotlight.

As feeders watch investment melt, their corn piles shrink; with scant prospect of remuneration they order cars, as there is no incentive to put on weight. The "weak sister" element, loaded with cattle bought high last summer and fall, is anxious to go to town, appealing to commission houses to lower the semaphore arm. Under these circumstances,

81 per cent of prewar, compared with an exchange value of 101 per cent on January 15, 1937—the highest level since November, 1925.

In a review of price movements during the past calendar year, the bureau pointed out that prices of farm products rose sharply following the 1936 drought. By January, 1937, they had reached a level of 31 per cent above prewar, but thereafter they declined slowly and irregularly for several months. The index stood at 128 per cent of prewar in May, dropped to 124 in June, and then advanced a point in July. But, with the harvesting of record new crops, the index declined steadily, and on December 15 was 27 points lower than in January.

Prices paid by farmers, on the other hand, advanced sharply during the first five months of the year. The index declined in June, however, and continued downward to the end of the year.

FARM INCOME \$500,000,000 OVER RECEIPTS IN 1936

THIS YEAR'S CASH INCOME OF farmers is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at \$8,500,000,000, compared with \$7,920,000,000 last year. The figures represent aggregate cash income from 78 crops, live stock and live-stock products, and government soil conservation and benefit payments.

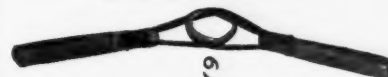
Crops brought in \$3,840,000,000 compared with \$3,462,000,000 last year. Live stock and products were responsible for \$4,280,000,000, compared with \$4,171,000,000 a year ago. Government payments amounted to \$380,000,000 as against \$287,000,000 in 1936.

Cash income, representing value of products sold off the farm, was used in the report for the first time, rather than the farm-value and gross-income figures of previous reports. Farm value represented the value of production irrespective of use; gross income comprised cash income plus value of commodities consumed on the farm. Cash income, officials said, was the better standard.

End-of-the-season estimates of production of important crops were given as below (000 omitted):

	1936	1937
Corn (bu.)	1,507,089	2,644,995
Wheat (bu.)	626,766	873,993
Winter (bu.)	519,874	685,102
All spring (bu.)	106,892	188,891
Oats (bu.)	785,506	1,146,258
Barley (bu.)	147,475	219,635
Rye (bu.)	25,319	49,449
Buckwheat (bu.)	6,285	6,777
Flaxseed (bu.)	5,273	6,974
Rice (bu.)	49,002	53,004
Grain Sorghums (bu.)	55,079	79,097
Cotton, lint (bale)	12,399	18,746
Cottonseed (ton)	5,511	8,337
Hay, tame (ton)	63,536	73,785
Hay, wild (ton)	6,850	9,302
Potatoes (bu.)	331,918	391,159
Sugar Beets (ton)	9,028	8,798

EASIER Dehorning SAFER Combination



The Superior Calf Dehorner

Keenest steel edges; light, strong, quick, easy, powerful in action; clean shapely cuts. Admits horn 1 1/4". Bull fit for its job.

Combination Offer

For \$5.00 with your order we will mail you a Superior Dehorner, with one qt. Anchor Brand Dehorning Paint (to safeguard and protect after dehorning or other surface wounds) postpaid in U. S. A. mainland. Add 2% Sales Tax in Colorado.

The Antiseptic Products Company

3105 Walnut Street, Denver, Colo.

to hold them back is futile, as next week may put another reef in values.

Hogs Stable

Hogs are on a stable basis—apparently so, as in these troubled times positive assertion is dangerous. Packers are greedy whenever opportunity to put up droves under \$8 is presented. They have bought avidly all the way down, and, with average cost about \$2.70 under the corresponding period of 1937, they need hogs in the worst way, anticipating that the tail end of the winter movement will taper off sooner or later. Pork is in keen competition with beef, is cheap, and is getting a play, as its condition and quality are standard at this season. Another thing is that 80 per cent of a hog can be tucked away in storage; beef must be sold at the earliest possible moment after reaching the cooler. With reduced stock, packers are in storage mood, expectant of inventory profits—the logical sequence of a short crop, a bald fact already in evidence.

As in the case of cattle, light hogs have the call, a substantial premium being paid for anything 220 pounds down to pig weights. Heavy butchers, on the other hand, 300 pounds up, are selling at stiff discounts, the spread between extreme and featherweights being as much as \$1.25 per cwt. Cattle are in competition with hogs selling anywhere from \$7.50 to \$8.50 per cwt., to the distinct disadvantage of the latter when the product reaches the retailer—and pork is a winter meat.

Lamb Trade Spurts

Lamb trade spurted somewhat unexpectedly at the turn of the year, the Chicago top reacting to \$9.15 on the first session from \$8.40; the bulk, from \$8 to \$8.25 and \$8.75 to \$9; but killers served definite notice of intention to resume raiding whenever numbers made it possible. Big lambs, 100 pounds up, are severely penalized and will continue to be if the January-to-March supply carries advertised weight. Eastern dressed markets have slipped, lamb carcasses wholesaling in New York at 13 to 16 cents per pound; killers claim that only short runs, necessitating buying to keep killing gangs going, made the upturn possible. Current prices are so much under initial cost that loss does not need stressing. Wool is in a large measure responsible, as pelt credits are at the lowest level in several years.

At the low point, late in December, recourse to the freezer was necessary to clear the New York market, which is always detrimental, as an accumulation can be unloaded only during temporary scarcity. An upturn in wool prices would be of advantage to lamb feeders.

At this writing, there is nothing on which to predicate price trends of any species. While conditions are not without precedent, the unexpected has happened. The microbe of liquidation is in the air; also, desire to get from under.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	1937	November 1936	First Eleven Months 1937	1936
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,465,785	1,540,918	14,045,821	14,451,231
Calves	666,350	635,206	6,747,172	6,318,207
Hogs	2,322,667	3,148,515	20,078,060	23,254,003
Sheep	1,785,163	2,149,136	23,336,076	22,891,271
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	700,902	654,567	6,019,284	5,683,655
Calves	277,343	238,932	2,344,260	2,084,218
Hogs	648,718	900,297	5,857,406	7,127,788
Sheep	890,865	1,082,902	11,970,823	11,514,351
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	371,507	351,664	2,704,106	2,417,737
Calves	89,561	96,829	529,545	512,855
Hogs	29,435	41,205	355,883	549,587
Sheep	351,829	367,098	3,190,106	2,685,268
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	855,835	988,167	9,210,109	9,984,756
Calves	467,994	476,532	5,829,210	5,575,717
Hogs	3,294,747	4,291,635	27,683,684	31,373,868
Sheep	1,321,269	1,543,916	15,867,333	15,642,746

*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Dec. 1, 1937†	Dec. 1, 1936	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	40,843,000	121,744,000	75,408,000
Cured beef*	12,559,000	31,025,000	20,977,000
Lamb and mutton	2,294,000	8,450,000	4,318,000
Frozen pork	64,886,000	144,308,000	96,573,000
Dry salt pork*	38,167,000	43,710,000	52,035,000
Pickled pork*	202,887,000	275,382,000	295,767,000
Miscellaneous	49,917,000	94,611,000	71,976,000
Total meats	411,553,000	719,230,000	617,054,000
Lard	33,974,000	108,765,000	79,268,000
Frozen poultry	108,787,000	149,391,000	104,677,000
Creamery butter	66,208,000	88,866,000	83,444,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	6,128,000	3,650,000	4,188,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

†Subject to revision.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

	Jan. 3, 1938	Dec. 1, 1937	Jan. 4, 1937
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$14.50-16.50	\$18.50-21.50	\$15.50-16.50
Steers—Good	13.00-14.50	14.50-18.50	14.00-15.50
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	13.50-16.00	16.00-21.00	16.00-18.00
Steers—Good	12.00-14.00	13.00-17.50	14.00-17.00
Yearling Steers—Choice	13.50-14.50	15.50-18.50	17.50-18.50
Yearling Steers—Good	12.00-13.50	13.00-15.50	14.00-17.50
Cows—Good	11.00-11.50	12.00-13.00	10.00-11.00
Vealers—Choice	15.00-16.00	15.50-16.50	15.00-16.00
Vealers—Good	14.00-15.00	14.50-15.50	14.00-15.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON			
Lambs—Choice (45 lbs. down)	17.00-18.00	19.00-20.00	12.50-15.00
Lambs—Good	16.00-17.00	18.00-19.00	12.00-14.00
Ewes—Good	8.00- 9.00	9.00-10.00	7.00- 8.00
FRESH PORK CUTS			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	14.50-16.00	16.00-18.00	20.50-22.50

COMPARATIVE LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Jan. 3, 1938	Dec. 1, 1937	Jan. 4, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$9.75-11.75	\$13.00-15.50	\$11.25-13.00
Slaughter Steers—Good	7.75-10.50	9.00-13.50	10.00-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,000 lbs.)	9.00-10.75	12.00-14.25	11.75-13.00
Slaughter Steers—Good	7.25- 9.75	8.25-13.00	10.00-11.75
Slaughter Steers—Medium (900 lbs. up)	6.50- 8.00*	7.25- 9.50	8.00-10.00
Fed Young Steers—Good-Choice	7.00-10.75	8.00-12.75	10.00-12.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	7.00- 9.50	7.00-11.00	7.75-12.50
Cows—Good	6.00- 7.00	6.00- 7.00	5.75- 6.75
Calves—Good-Choice	6.00- 8.00	6.50-10.50	6.00- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	6.25- 7.75	6.75- 8.50	6.75- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com-Med.	5.25- 6.50	5.25- 7.00	5.50- 6.75
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.)	7.65- 8.40	8.20- 8.45	10.40-10.65
Lambs—Good-Choice	7.75- 9.15	8.10- 9.50	9.50-10.10
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.25- 4.10	4.00- 4.75	4.00- 5.25

* 750 pounds up.

HOW MUCH OF A JUMP?

(Continued from page 1)

cattle having overstayed the high grasser market last fall, subsequently going on grain. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, northern Iowa, and Kentucky are all populated, in a bovine sense, and in course of time will disgorge.

Hogs Good Property

Dearth of hog product, prospectively and in storage, is prompting packers to grab everything in sight whenever a 10- to 15-cent break reduces drove cost. This market is flopping around in a manner that suggests that the product is good property and that the end of one of the shortest crops the country has ever raised will be in evidence 60 days hence; otherwise they could easily have put the Chicago market on a \$7 average cost basis. Eastern competition was in evidence during December, orders from that quarter occasionally boosting prices 25 to 50 cents overnight. Fresh pork is cheap and of excellent quality, insuring broad consumption; but, when and if supply diminishes, retail prices will soar and beef will get a play. That portion of the hog going into fresh meat channels has no place in the accumulation scheme and must be sold promptly.

Swelling eastern demand indicates that swine grown down that way have been closely garnered; how short the Corn Belt supply is can only be guessed, but killers have a hunch that they are running into harder picking. Spring croppers moved early at light weight; meanwhile the residue has been getting into superb condition, putting a premium on featherweights. An occasional storm run will be illuminating, as in such emergencies packers will back away. Country buying grows more difficult as the season works along. Stocks are low, but processors are averse to accumulating lard, which accounts for a spread of \$1 per cwt. or more between fat-backs and featherweights. Imports continue heavy, particularly Poland's weekly contribution, discrediting prediction that lower prices would check it. Imported ham appears to have acquired a permanent footing in this market on a consumer preference basis, duplicating what has happened to lard.

Bumps for Big Lambs

Lamb feeders have not crowded the market, probably on the theory that wool recovery was in the offing. Those who took what the December market offered have reason for self-congratulation, as they adroitly avoided excessive weight, beat the break, and cut off the feed bill. Facing an \$8 to \$8.75 market on the residue of the crop, they are in a position to figure losses in advance. Big lambs, 100 pounds up, are already begging bids; meat handlers are renovating freezers in anticipation of a deluge of temporarily unsalable product.

Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are woolly, Iowa has carried westerns into weight, and the maturing Colorado supply is numerically greater than at the corresponding period of 1937, not to speak of tonnage. Far western supplies have been reduced by Pacific Coast demand, generating expectancy that Denver will be ultimately reached by orders from that quarter. Any such diversion will afford welcome relief to eastern congestion, which frequently reaches the acute stage, necessitating bargain sales or recourse to storage. Whatever happens, the big lamb is scheduled for a series of bumps.

WOOL INDUSTRY MARKED BY DULLNESS

BY J. E. P.

"SCATTERED SALES" TELL WHAT is happening in wool circles. Rarely does anything develop in that market during the first half of January, consequently nothing is expected.

No wool is being bought on the sheep's back, inventories are by no means insignificant, and the entire industry, from wool-loft to clothing retailer's hangers, is dull, in striking contrast to purchasing activity at the corresponding period of 1937. Raw-wool prices have declined to the lowest level of the movement, and, although consumption during the first five months of 1937 was 18 per cent ahead of 1936, an enormous shrinkage has developed between the zenith of March and the December nadir, September disclosing a drop of 34 per cent compared with March. September was the lowest month since the fall of 1934. Whole-

salers and retailers are overstocked and the consumer has a full wardrobe, imposed on him by supersalesmanship under a threat of still higher prices.

Mill Operations Curtailed

Mill operators have curtailed schedules and pay rolls—a policy that may have a stabilizing influence on fabric prices. Clothing cost has been reduced sharply, with the object of attracting buyers, whole pages of advertising being utilized to announce cut-price sales \$2 to \$3 per garment under the high time. Women's wear is moving more freely than men's, but orders for spring goods have declined sharply.

All this combines to depress wool trade. Other factors are an uncertain industrial outlook, wage-and-hour legislation, and the prospective trade agreement with Great Britain, which, conceivably, could make serious inroads on local industry, in view of a wide wage disparity between the two countries.

The 25 to 35 per cent decline in raw wool and top futures is in line with the drop in values of other sensitive raw materials. As domestic prices are below import parity, the drop at London has had no perceptible effect on the local situation. Any move by Bradford to cover requirements would improve sentiment in this country.

Few Buyers

Boston reports a light turnover of greasy combing shorn wools at steady to firm prices. Few buyers are operating, interest centering on Texas and fine territory wools. Ohio fleeces are quoted at 31 to 32 cents, nominal; delaine, 32 to 33 cents for staple combing, half-blood; 31 to 33 cents for 3/8-blood; and 30 to 32 cents for quarter-blood. Sales of Texas wools have recently been

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made at 23 cents, but not in considerable volume. Territory trade is at a standstill.

There will be no contracting in the West in anticipation of shearing unless conditions change materially.

Salient features of the trade:

Raw wool shows signs of resistance to lower prices;

A surplus of wool goods in distributive channels has reduced mill operations to about 40 per cent of capacity;

Wool consumption has dropped 50 per cent under the peak of last March;

Moderate stocks of cloth have accumulated in manufacturers' hands;

Retailers report heavy stocks, with a lag in demand;

Dealers are passing lower material costs to customers, putting clothing prices back to last winter's level.

REVIVING HIDE MARKET DIFFICULT TASK

BY J. E. P.

PULMOTORING THE HIDE MARKET is a strenuous task. Packers are not moving fresh take-off, not to speak of an enormous accumulation; not pressing on the market, as it is in strong hands.

Shoe making has slumped, although 1937 was a year of heavy production, the result being congested retailers' shelves and an accumulation at the factory. In October, 27,950,000 pairs were turned out; diminishing demand resulted in a drop to 21,040,000 pairs in November, according to Commerce Department reports. Production during the first 11 months was 389,245,000 pairs, compared with 381,846,000 pairs during the corresponding period of 1936. Unloading the accumulation on the public is the salesman's prospective job.

Heavy packer hides are quoted at 14½ cents; light natives, 11½ cents; heavy Texas, 14 cents; light Texas, 12½ to 13 cents; heavy butts, 14 cents; and heavy Colorados, 13½ cents. Packer cows are moving slowly at 10½ to 11½ cents. Small packer hides are quoted at 8½ to 9½ cents for steers and cows; countries, at 8 to 8¼ cents.

When trade was resumed in packer hides, demand proved feeble; meanwhile the price trend has been downward. Retailers are endeavoring to reduce inventories, buying on a hand-to-mouth basis. Shoe factories are curtailing operations; inability to book new business has necessitated laying off workers except where unions have accepted blanket reductions in wages. A year ago, speculative forward buying carried shoe production to high levels.

Demand Curtailed

This has curtailed demand for leather. Tanners are operating at 40 per cent of capacity, experiencing difficulty in closing sales on a falling hide market. The futures market is erratic, with a

downward tendency, having declined 50 per cent since mid-August, this wiping out in three months the gain effected in three previous years.

The Big Four entered 1938 with an estimated accumulation of 1,400,000 pieces, and other interests own about 1,000,000 pieces—not an excessive stock if demand existed. Tanners have a confirmed habit of disappearing following an advance of half a cent. No considerable volume of business is expected for 30 days; meanwhile, if shoe factory workers see the light and consent to blanket wage reductions, business may pick up.

A disturbing influence is the general downward trend of commodities and aversion to accumulating inventories.

January shoe sales, at cut rates, are expected to reduce retailers' accumulations, this being the objective. The spring season is backward, as manufacturers are insistent on buying leather at prices consistent with cheaper-quality shoes demanded by jobbers and mail-order houses. Tanners have accumulated moderate stocks of leather in consequence of cancellation of orders, although their hide inventories are light. Current Chicago hide prices are below Buenos Aires.

GRAZING HABITS

(Continued from page 4)

It is frequently held that salt should be placed at watering places, inasmuch as cattle alternate between salt and water. However, we noted that, while some cattle did alternate between water and salt, there were equally as many that drank only once, then ate salt, or vice versa, and left. Most of the cattle watered every day, usually in the morning. Some, however, varied from this practice by watering every other day or by watering out in the afternoon. The average length of time required for cattle to water was about 10 minutes each, with about 15 minutes for eating salt (from compressed salt blocks). There were always some cows that made a practice of monopolizing salt blocks for much longer periods of time and not infrequently kept other cattle away from salt altogether.

During the cold part of the winter, a portion of the spring, and again in the early summer, cattle tended to graze up and down the washes. During other seasons they grazed more or less at random over the range. Some individuals formed the habit of grazing on a certain part of the range and could usually be found there at most any season of the year, regardless of the forage supply. During cold, stormy, or windy weather, cattle appeared to be much more restless and covered much larger areas when grazing than under ordinary conditions. During the summer and fall, when feed was rather abundant, the

majority of cattle grazed in a rather conservative manner, taking only portions of the grass clumps and rarely utilizing the grass below a height of three or four inches. During winter and spring they began to graze more closely and, if the range was overstocked, they inevitably consumed all the available forage down to within one inch or less of the ground.

Factors Influencing Grazing Animals

There are various factors that appeared to determine what kinds of plants cattle eat, the manner in which they grazed, the seasonal palatability of different plants, and, ultimately, the distribution of utilization over the range in general. Some few of these factors that were observed, while not new, may serve to give a slightly different approach to the range management problem. The rather consistent use of mesquite forage during the winter, late spring, and through part of the summer, seemed to be related, in a measure at least, to temperature conditions. During the colder days of winter, cattle naturally sought the shelter of mesquite trees along the washes, and, as mesquite feed was nearest, they used somewhat more of it than they otherwise might have. Much the same held true during the spring, when cattle sought shelter from the high winds that prevailed at that season of the year. In the summer it appeared that cattle sought the shade of mesquite trees as a protection against the intense heat, and at such times ate considerable quantities of mesquite beans and twigs.

The rather consistent use of grasses along the washes during the fall was due to the fact that green growth occurred there for several weeks after it had completely dried up on the ridges. Grazing along the washes during the early spring and summer was accounted for by the presence of early green growth.

In the spring of 1935 it was noted that mesquites were frozen rather badly during the month of January and that they were hardly eaten at all until new growth developed late in the spring.

Local rains, especially at the start of the summer growing season, also contributed very materially to the use of certain parts of the range. Ordinarily the first rains fell at the higher elevations and on the better-grassed areas; hence cattle concentrated on these areas until such time as the rains became more general, then they drifted back to their natural grazing haunts.

It was observed that two conditions on the range seemed to affect the closeness of grazing: (1) When feed was abundant cattle grazed only conservatively, but when it was scarce they grazed as close to the ground as they could; (2) rocky areas were normally much more conservatively used than stone-free areas. There appeared to be two reasons for this: Cattle become

sore-footed when grazing on rocky areas, and the rocks themselves prevented grazing as close to the ground as otherwise might be done.

Extreme drought periods, especially in the spring of the year, during which there is little or no green growth, caused cattle to consume more cholla and similar forage; largely, no doubt, because such plants furnish succulent feed at times when other forage plants are dry. The time of year at which some range plants grow likewise influenced their use by cattle. California and Arizona three-awns, for example, ordinarily make an appreciable amount of growth in the spring of the year and thus furnish succulent feed to the stock when but few other grasses are green.

Making Use of Observations

Some of the observations recorded may seem commonplace to stockmen who have spent most of their lives on the range. Possibly, though, they may not always have taken advantage of the things they have observed by applying them in the management of their ranges. In our experience, some of the things observed have considerable significance and suggest ways whereby range management may be improved. To illustrate:

1. Range areas on which annual grasses and weeds grow in abundance and where few or no perennial grasses are present should be grazed so as to secure full use during the summer and again during the spring growing season.

2. Areas where tanglehead is dominant can best be used from midsummer on through the early part of the winter, as this grass remains green and furnishes succulent feed after most of the other grasses have cured.

3. Where cottongrass is dominant, it can be used almost yearlong, although, due to the fact that it remains green until late into the fall or early winter and greens up again in the spring, it is most valuable during the winter and spring seasons.

4. Areas where black grama is dominant can be grazed yearlong, although this grass seems to grow best when favored during the summer season, and consequently should be used during the winter and spring seasons.

5. Where California three-awn is dominant it can best be grazed during the winter and late spring, as it normally remains green and thus furnishes succulent feed for stock at these seasons.

6. Mesquite or catclaw areas can be grazed to best advantage during the winter, as they furnish protection against the cold winds, and again during the late spring, when they provide shade as well as succulent feed at a time when forage grasses are dry.

7. Guajilla and range ratany are relished by cattle throughout most of the year. However, where abundant, they can be used to best advantage during the spring when perennial grasses are dry and largely grazed off.

8. Most of the remaining common grasses and small shrubs are grazed by cattle with about equal relish

throughout the year, and no particular advantage is to be gained by attempting to use them at any specific season.

9. The simple fact that an old cow may monopolize a block of salt for half an hour or more, thus preventing some other animal from getting any, may possibly have its serious side. For example, the cow that is deprived of her salt may go to a dirt salt lick and seek to satisfy her craving for salt. Not infrequently this leads to death of the animal. The remedy would obviously be to have more salt grounds and more blocks of salt at each ground.

These and many other observations that may be made by the stockmen in their daily contacts with the animals and the ranges will undoubtedly lead to the development of a sounder basis for managing the ranges in the future.

STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

IF AND WHEN IT RAINS—THE STOCKMAN'S VIEW OF THE RANGE QUESTION, by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association. Copies may be secured free by writing to the association office at 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado. "If and When It Rains" presents facts, figures, and authorities to show that the stockman is not a despoiler of the western range lands.

FIRES ON FARMS. Leaflet 44. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Simple precautions suggested to cut down the loss of the 3,500 lives and \$100,000,000 worth of

property suffered each year in farm fires are: Use fire-resistant roofing; dispose of waste and rubbish; never use gasoline or kerosene to start or revive a fire; guard against overheating stoves and furnaces; clean smoke pipes at least once a year; equip major buildings with lightning rods; keep fire-fighting equipment handy.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CLIP IN CALIFORNIA, by J. F. Wilson, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California. Circular 106. Obtainable from the college at Berkeley. Goes into wool production topics thoroughly, giving an insight into methods used in California as compared with other wool producing areas.

CUTTING REMARKS. Booklet issued by Safeway Stores, Inc., Oakland, California. The pamphlet gives complete instructions on carving meat. "There's no great mystery to carving, no ritual to be learned, just simple fundamentals to remember when one sits before a roast with which he has but a nodding acquaintance," the preface states. Instructions are given on "choosing the weapons"; steeling the blade; and carving the various cuts.

FEEDING PRACTICES 1938. Booklet issued by and available from the National Cottonseed Products Association, Dallas, Texas. It sets forth practical ration and feeding recommendations based on research conducted by experiment stations and agricultural colleges.

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FOREIGN

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 15.—The 1937 beef export season is drawing to a close. All packing plants in north Queensland have finished killing, and, while those in central and south Queensland are still treating cattle, operations now are of a more or less hand-to-mouth character. From the producers' point of view, the season has been the best experienced for many years. Though weather conditions in all parts of the state, and particularly in the south, have not always favored a good finish of slaughter steers, there have been many worse years. So far as prices paid by packers are concerned—the important factor for fatteners—these have ruled higher than for a very long time.

Values Solid

On a couple of occasions in October, when it happened that a short market coincided with shipping freight bookings which had to be filled, exporters paid up to \$9.10 per 100 pounds, cold weights, for chiller-type steers, and from \$8 to \$8.40 for freezers in the Cannon Hill (Brisbane) Yards. It is true, those rates were abnormal; but, taking the month right through, the average cost of chillers was in the region of \$8.60 and of freezer steers not far short of \$8.20. The buying rate in the central division during October was up to \$7.20 for best light steers and in the north at least \$6.75 a hundred was paid for top lots. For the purpose of comparison it may

be said that in October, 1936, the maximum export buying rate in the Cannon Hill Yards was \$6.25 for chillers and \$5.50 for freezers; in the central division it was \$5.75, and in the north, \$5.

Thus it will be seen that in October, 1937, export-grade cattle were fetching from 25 per cent to nearly 50 per cent more than in October, 1936, and if the difference was not so marked in other months it was none the less quite appreciable. As export values largely determine prices which rule right through the beef market, the higher range has been reflected in prices paid by butchers catering for local consumption. Indeed, values in Queensland were so solid that the usual winter flow of beef from the north to Sydney and Melbourne has been practically nonexistent this year. That in its turn helped to keep cattle values in the south on a firm basis. Generally speaking, fatteners in the southern states during the past winter have realized \$10 to \$15 more than in 1936 for prime bullocks.

Killings Increase

The higher prices plus favorable feed conditions in central and northern Queensland have resulted in increased killings this year. From January 1 to October 31, 448,537 cattle were submitted for federal inspection and slaughter at meat-packing plants in Queensland, compared with 398,066 during the calendar year of 1936. In addition, the Wyndham works on the north coast of Western Australia treated 39,311 cattle this year as against 37,074 in 1936.

Whether the plants will have such a good run in 1938 is doubtful. Apart from weather and feed conditions, which at

the moment are in the balance, the effect of the drought in 1934-35, when calvings were poor, is bound to be felt. Official estimates of all classes of cattle in Queensland show that the state carried 5,800,000 head at the close of 1936 and 6,052,000 in 1934. Beef breeds are not shown separately from dairy breeds, but it may be assumed the losses of beef cattle were the greater. The reason for saying this is that dairy herds are kept on small holdings and are always under the eye of the owner, whereas the bulk of the beef cattle is maintained on free runs of very large areas where personal supervision is impossible.

I wrote just now that weather and feed conditions are in the balance. The north of Australia, i.e., the tropic and sub-tropic terrain, largely depends on summer rains for natural feed, and it is about this time that we look for storms to usher in the wet season which normally extends from mid-November to nearly the end of March. There have already been good rains on the east coast and its immediate hinterlands, but so far they have not gone far into the west, except in relatively small areas. There is, however, plenty of time, and the fact that heavy falls are reported on the coast seems to justify an optimistic outlook.

Grasshoppers Troublesome

Another factor in the feed position is grasshoppers, or locusts, as I think they are designated in America. Last summer they assumed plague proportions in parts of New South Wales and Queensland, and unfortunately large egg beds were laid before they could be controlled. The eggs have started hatching, and a good deal of damage has been done to pastures in certain inland districts. Emergency action is being taken in both states to deal with the trouble. Queensland government went so far as to pass special legislation last month that invests local committees with power to compel all landholders to bait breeding grounds within four hours of notification. It was said at the time that about 1,200 square miles of land in Queensland were carrying egg beds. Poisoning is being done widely in New South Wales, government having established poison bait depots in all threatened areas. In addition, many landholders are using flame-throwers with success.

An important sale of United States bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, shipped by the Wayland Hopley Farms, Inc., was held at Wellington, New Zealand, some six weeks ago. Ten bulls and 10 heifers were offered, and 13 head sold under the hammer. They realized \$17,600—an average of \$1,350. The six bulls sold averaged \$1,480 per head, the top price being \$2,500 for a three-year-old—Black Rex of Bordulac. Epistos Quality, a magnificent four-year-old, realized \$1,500. Another valuable bull, Barson Quality, a two-year-old, sold at \$1,500.

The champion heifer, Elbaress Quality, a two-year-old daughter of Bar Quality, made the top figure for females—\$1,875.

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Eighteen hundred dollars was paid for the rising two-year-old heifer, Escora Marlene. Beta Quality 3rd went cheaply at \$1,300, and another—Blackcap McHenry 465th—at \$1,250.

It is interesting to note that at the New Zealand Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders' Association annual sale, held shortly after the above, 105 New Zealand bred bulls changed hands at an average of over \$325. The top price was \$1,775. The demand was keen.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

EGLISH SCIENTISTS ARE USING Radium, X-rays, and ultra-violet rays in a search for the ideal sterilizing agent for meat. Radiation, it is thought, might sterilize meat without affecting its qualities or appearance. By the new line of research-biological control being developed, certain bacteria would be allowed to grow and others would be killed or prevented from growing. By this means it would be possible to alter the flavor of meat at will, just as the cultivation of certain bacteria in cheese creates the special flavors of the various types of cheese. Scientists believe that there is no reason why carcasses should not be injected with bacteria which would create palatable changes and at the same time exclude putrefactive organisms which cause deterioration.

Netherlands' 5 per cent "crisis" slaughtering excise tax and her export equalization fee for beef and veal, part of a program to adjust cattle numbers and improve the stock, have been abolished. Previous cut in the excise tax by half had been made to help improve financial outcome for butchers; total abolition was intended to give consumers reduced meat prices. But, due to shortage, high prices have continued. Contention now is that prices would have risen had the tax not been abolished.

Cold storage and meat export trade of Rhodesia are to be taken over next April by the government, according to the *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne). "Judging by the fact that this announcement was greeted by Rhodesian farmers with 'vociferous applause,' it would seem that neither they nor the government have heard of the disastrous consequences of similar incursions into business enterprises in Australia," remarks the *Review*.

A new export organization has been set up in Poland to aid Polish ham exporters to maintain and extend their present market in the United States and to obtain a profitable return for Polish ham exports either through price controls or profits from a complementary import trade. Polish authorities are said to be making definite effort to connect imports of raw cotton fiber from United

States with exports of Polish hams and bacon to United States.

Foot-and-mouth disease, spreading in Europe, has reached Yugoslavia and now threatens Austria from two sides. Denmark has it. An outbreak has been reported from the Holy Land. Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, and Switzerland, as previously reported, have the disease.

If agriculture prices improve, the plan of the Netherlands government is to reduce aid it now accords farmers under various so-called crisis measures adopted in recent years. The crisis protection was accomplished by increasing farmers' returns by means of direct financial support or indirect measures for raising the internal price level.

Argentina leads the world in beef consumption, with 220 pounds per capita a year. New Zealanders eat about 150 pounds a year; Australians, 130; and citizens of the British Isles, 70. New Zealanders eat nearly 100 pounds of mutton and 28 pounds of pork yearly. In Britain and France more beef is eaten than pork; in Germany, Canada, and the United States more pork is consumed than any other meat, with Germany and Denmark heading the list of pork eaters, followed by the United States and Canada. With the exception of Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, mutton and lamb play a minor part in total meat consumption.

Successful production of a wool-like fiber from fish albumin is reported from Germany. It is said to possess the

warming properties of natural wool and to behave excellently during dying. Recent reports also tell of experiments in the Soviet Union in connection with the production of synthetic wool from albumin. "Lanital" is also a new synthetic wool made in Italy from cassein.

Through a special commission established in Uruguay to improve sheep breeds in that country, premiums are paid to growers for breeding and purchasing pedigreed sheep, the sale and use of inferior sheep being forbidden. Rebates are allowed on transport of wool by rail, and machinery for the wool industry is exempt from customs duties.

Foods sufficient to feed the whole of Great Britain for a year would require an estimated 15,000,000,000 cans. The estimate was the result of speculation by government experts as to rations needed in event of war.

An American firm, recent lessee for 10 years of a packing plant in the trans-Danubian district, plans to slaughter there from 35,000 to 50,000 hogs a year, producing canned ham and bacon, chiefly for export to the United States.

Czechoslovakia's recent 3,862,694 pig count has caused considerable concern in official agricultural circles and among large breeders because it threatens recurrence of the unfavorable hog situation of 1934, when with hogs numbering 3,887,837 head, a rapid decline of prices took place. The government then decreed limitation on numbers raised to farmers' production of basic feedstuffs. Improvement in feedstuffs situation has resulted in the present large hog population.

Keep Posted on Live Stock Market Trends

National Live Stock Producer, February issue, carries informative market forecast by nationally recognized authority, H. M. Conway. Important news for both breeders and feeders of Beef, Hogs, and Lamb. A copy of this outstanding forecast will be sent free. Write for it today.

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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

FAIR TO VERY GOOD IS THE January 1 report of condition of the western ranges by the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Ranges carried an average supply of feed, condition of which was poor to fair in the dry Great Plains areas but above average elsewhere. Live stock was in good condition. Range condition was 77 per cent of normal, compared with 76 last month, 72 a year ago, and 77.2 for the 1928-37 average.

Condition by states:

Arizona.—Rains started range feed in lower southern sections, but more moisture needed to make early feed; north ranges mostly open and feed fair to good; mild, open weather favorable for stock; ewe bands in south on farm pastures owing to short desert feed; early lamb crop good.

California.—Ranges and pastures are greatly improved; heavy rains in north, some in south; ranges in north far above normal; new feed starting well in south; feed prospects favorable and little use contemplated for hay and other range stock feeds; cattle doing well and will make good gains; new feed and price decline stimulated stocker and feeder cattle imports; sheep and lambs in very good condition and wintering prospects very favorable in all sections; favorable lambing conditions in main sections.

Colorado.—Lower ranges mostly open after early December snows that gave much needed moisture; hay and feed plentiful in irrigated, mountain, and western sections but short in eastern

areas where concentrates being imported; winter sheep ranges in west good; cattle and sheep in good condition; loss light.

Idaho.—Ranges mainly open except in eastern areas; feed fair to good; hay adequate; light feeding saving supplies in southwest; cattle and sheep doing well.

Kansas (western).—Ranges and pastures poor; wheat pastures only fair due to lack of moisture; stock feeds furnishing only feed; feed supply short but more plentiful and cheaper than year ago; cattle in fair condition; feed supplies fairly plentiful in eastern Kansas but pastures poor.

Montana.—Ranges snow covered early in December but most lower ranges open later; range feed fair to good except in northeast and central dry areas where feeds being imported; cattle and sheep in very good condition except in local dry areas.

Nebraska (western).—Ranges generally short but open and provided some feed; hay and forage ample except in dry areas; soil moisture lacking in much of range country; cattle generally fair to good; weather favorable for stock; some cattle held after price decline but marketings were heavy from sand hills.

Nevada.—Winter ranges generally open; ample stock water and good feed; hay supply plentiful; mild, open weather favorable for stock; stock doing well.

New Mexico.—Ranges good but need moisture; open weather permitted full range use; snow light on higher ranges; stock water ample; supplemental feeding light; feed supply ample with usual amount imported concentrates; cattle and sheep in above normal condition; some cattle held after price decline.

Oklahoma.—Pastures and ranges are short; limited feed on wheat pastures which suffered from freezing; feed ample except in some western areas; soil moisture good except in western sections; cold, rainy weather caused some cattle shrink; cattle fair to good; loss light; few cattle sold but milk cow demand good.

South Dakota (western).—Light snow cover but ranges mostly open for full use with light supplemental feeding; hay and other feeds ample for reduced numbers; stock in fair condition in south-central counties, good elsewhere; feed supply ample in eastern sections; light snow permitted full use of field feeds.

Texas.—Pastures and ranges held up well in December; rains over most of state except Panhandle; grain pastures in north need rain; feeds generally ample except in some Panhandle areas; stock in good flesh except in some dry areas; cattle shipments heavy during fall; sheep in strong condition except in local areas of dry southern plateau; sheep sections had recent rains; ewe bands doing well; sheep shipments reached record in 1937; no large carry-over of lambs.

Utah.—Winter ranges mostly open; feed good; some south and central desert ranges need snow for stock water; mild, open weather permitted farm pasture use; cattle and sheep in very good condition.

Washington.—Field, pasture, range feeds generally very good; some new grass in southern sections; some surplus hay and grains and prospect for considerable carryover; little feeding necessary; stock in very good condition.

Wyoming.—Snow partly covered the ranges in December but, where open, feed is good; hay supply generally adequate; cattle in fair to good condition and sheep wintering well; loss light; winter sheep ranges good, mostly open; some snow in central and southern areas.



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BRADY

TEXAS

REGULATIONS

(Continued from page 7)

are generally drawn with the idea of protecting the public rather than the stockman. Incidentally, these are supported by general tax funds. Other illustrations are control of transportation charges, regulations affecting packers, etc. So far as known, these have been put into effect on the theory that they would benefit the public. They affect stockmen. Live stock associations have for years watched freight charges and tried to find a way of grading and marking meat. Putting the product in the hands of consumers in a safer, more attractive, and more reliable condition at a reasonable price will increase demand and result in better live-animal prices.

New Range Rules

Starting quite some time ago with control of national forests in the interest of the public, regulation of grazing

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

has now been extended to the public domain under the Taylor Grazing Act. Again, it is the interest of the public that is concerned. The stockman is protected to the extent that the public is protected. Yet the stockman is the one who must pay. This control, if properly administered, will, it is assumed, and I think rightly so, protect the range for the benefit of future generations.

The movement to control grazing is now apparently about to be extended to include, presumably on a voluntary basis, privately controlled lands in the interest of prevention of erosion and preservation of soil fertility.

Here is a regulation which, by limiting numbers of stock grazed, affects the stockman's business—maybe more intimately than the other forms of regulations to which he has been accustomed.

It strikes me that therein lies a temptation for extension of regulatory movements. Undoubtedly, restrictions as to grazing on forest areas, the public domain, and to some extent private lands will in time have an effect upon our live-stock population. If successful, it will mean the shifting of that population eastward. That might affect the price of live stock and meat. After the price goes up, it may be that the farm producers will not be under the restrictions imposed upon the producers who use forest and public domain, and the farmers will no doubt increase production. Then the way to equalize it would be to sign up the farm producers in control programs or prepare for regulations affecting the industry.

Here is a new kind of regulation. We have brand regulations, inspection, etc., to prevent stealing; we have disease regulations in the interest of public health and health of live stock; we have grazing regulations in the interest of forest protection and development; stockmen support the principles of the Taylor act because they believe in regulation to protect a great national resource, and, while this may work some hardship on the live-stock industry, it will not to any very great extent interfere with the stockman's direction and management of his own business.

Danger to Industry

However, when we have regulations that tell the individual how many calves or lambs he may produce, that is another matter. It is apparent that the intention is to have these regulations imposed by officials not primarily interested in the live-stock industry but who presumably are of that type of economists who believe they can anticipate trends and change them by regulation.

Here lies the danger to the live-stock industry. With several agencies promulgating regulations, we may be told in August, after our calves and lambs are born, that because of oversupply the quota has been reduced. My guess is that the fellow who makes the regula-

tions will not tell you what to do with animals you are not permitted to market. At the same time, the fellow who makes the rules on carrying capacity will restrict numbers, and, if the regulations conflict, the stockman is face to face with the old story of an irresistible force striking an immovable object. It is safe to assume that the stockman in that event will be pretty seriously squeezed, if not smashed.

The regulations may affect the size of the breeding herds and numbers of stock you may market; may change at any season of the year; may prevent selling in times of dry season and short feed crop; may affect credit, especially long-term credit. Then, with the possibility of processing taxes being imposed, the producer faces the prospect of higher prices to the consumer and, therefore, reduced consumption.

These and other considerations ought to move the stockman to think carefully and look a long way into the future before he commits himself to the support of any control of this type.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

RETAIL PRICES OF 58 PRINCIPAL foods have increased 35 per cent in the past four years, while farm prices increased 77 per cent, reports the De-

partment of Agriculture. The retail value of principal foods consumed annually by a workingman's family in 1933 was \$264; in 1937, estimated, \$357. The farm value in the same period increased from \$92 to \$163. The difference represents the margin going to processors, distributors, and the like—\$172 in 1933, \$194 in 1937. Food in all four years cost consumers more than double what farmers received. The consumer's food dollar this year will be divided: 47 cents to farmer and 54 for processing, transportation, marketing, and distribution. Farmer share in 1933 was 35; 1934, 39; 1935, 42; 1936, 44. In 1929 it was 47.

* * *

More than 300,000 square miles of farm land will be mapped in 10 western states under the AAA conservation program. Surveys covering 140,000 square miles already are completed. In mapping an area, the Survey planes travel north and south at about 100 miles an hour, flying in straight lines 100 miles long and three miles apart. In this way the entire area to be surveyed is systematically photographed and the resultant pictures are put together to form a complete view of the section.

* * *

Chester H. Gray, formerly Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has become director of the National Highway Users'



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Conference. Major Roy F. Britton, who has been director since the inauguration of the conference in 1932, has retired.

* * *

In warning stockmen and farmers recently not to be intimidated into paying old debts already settled from refinancing loans made by the federal land banks or the Land Bank Commissioner, Albert S. Goss, Land Bank Commissioner of the FCA, said that many farmers have given new notes for cancelled debts under "persuasion" of former creditors who had agreed to scale down their claims and settle for what the farmer could borrow from the land bank and the commissioner. The courts have repeatedly held that such creditors violate a legal contract when they attempt to collect more than the amount of the claim as reduced by the "scale-down agreement."

* * *

Meat production during 1937 was 2,000,000,000 pounds less than in 1936, the Institute of American Meat Packers announces. Average consumption of meat per capita in 1937 was about seven pounds less than in the previous year, or approximately 119 pounds.

* * *

Secretary Wallace's action in reducing rates and charges on live stock handled by the Denver Union Stock Yard Company has been upheld by a three-judge federal court sitting at Denver. The court order called for refund of the portion of the charges collected that was in excess of the rates specified by the secretary. The court reaffirmed a memorandum opinion that the new rates fixed by the secretary are not arbitrary or unreasonable.

* * *

Advance premium list for the second annual Intermountain Junior Live Stock Show, to be held at the Salt Lake Union Stock Yards on June 7-8, shows total prizes about \$2,000 in the regular class, as against \$1,500 for the first show. To this will be added the breed association and other prizes. Separate prizes will apply to 4-H and FFA. The premium list may be secured from J. H. Manderfield, Union Stock Yards, Salt Lake City.

* * *

Maximum weekly hours of service of for-hire motor carrier employees have been fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission at 60 hours; daily, 15 hours, with limitation of actual working hours in any day of 12. The commission based its decision only on the safety standpoint, holding it was without jurisdiction to consider economic factors, the unemployment situation, or similar social problems.

* * *

Position of assistant regional forester, left vacant at Missoula, Montana, following transfer of Glen A. Smith to Ogden, Utah, was filled by E. D. Sandvig,

effective January 1, 1938. Sandvig has had extensive experience in range management and administration work with the Forest Service in Oregon, northern Idaho, and eastern Montana. He spent his early years on a ranch in eastern Montana, and received a University of Montana degree in forestry and range management in 1923.

* * *

Preying of coyotes upon lambing bands of sheep in the spring can be checked by den hunting, says the Department of Agriculture. How to go about finding the dens is explained in Leaflet 132, "Den Hunting as a Means of Coyote Control," obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents. Some coyotes, the leaflet points out, show great cunning in refraining from killing lambs near their dens and will pass by a band of sheep herded right over their den only to raid another several miles distant. Contrary to popular belief, the male coyote is as destructive as the female. Under normal conditions a pair of adult coyotes is found to every den unless one parent has been killed. If this happens to be a female and the pups are young, they die. If they are old enough to eat meat, the male parent cares for them.

* * *

Most families—city, village, and farm—now spend for food between 27 and 43 per cent of the money that goes for all living expenses, says the *Agricultural Situation*, a government publication. If incomes were increased \$100 yearly per family, the amount of this increase put into food would be \$20 in families with incomes under \$1,500 yearly; \$10 in families with incomes between \$1,500 and \$3,000; and \$3 in families with incomes between \$3,000 and \$7,500. The potential market for food is among the lower-income groups.

* * *

Fresh meat and packing products were included in a list of many commodities on which the nation's railroads on December 20 received authority from the Interstate Commerce Commission to increase rates, the increase being 4 cents a hundred. These are in addition to increases authorized by the commission on October 19 on commodities in the heavy loading classification.

* * *

Persons out of work on November 20 numbered between 7,822,912 and 10,870,000, according to the administration's voluntary census of unemployment. Registrations in the census are represented by the former figure, the latter one being an estimate based on an actual test count taken by the post office. John D. Bigger, director of the voluntary census, said that the true figure would lie somewhere between the two numbers.

* * *

Expenditure patterns of farm families are different from those of the early 1920's. Then, clothing expenses were

second to food. Now, clothing has been superseded by automobiles in more than half the most usual income groups, according to a study by the Bureau of Home Economics. In the more prosperous farm communities, between 80 and 90 per cent of the families studied in the most usual income groups have cars.

* * *

A resolution calling for dissolution of the Farmers' National Grain Corporation will be put up to stockholders at a special meeting January 24. The federal government will be the loser on dissolution.

STOCKMEN REPRESENTED AT RATE HEARING

REPRESENTING THE WESTERN live-stock shippers at the Salt Lake City hearing involving a general increase of 15 per cent in freight rates on live-stock, were Traffic Counsel Charles E. Blaine and Secretary F. E. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association.

The requested 15 per cent increase, it has been estimated, would cost western live-stock shippers some \$6,000,000 a year—a burden that the stockmen are in no position to bear. Stockmen contend that raised rates will have the effect of diverting traffic to the other modes of transportation.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, in its annual report to Congress, has advised the railroads to make their service more attractive, to reduce operation costs, and not to rely too much on rate increases as a remedy for economic ills.

"No competitive industry can work out its own salvation through a price-increasing policy alone, and the railroad industry is now, to a very considerable extent, in that class," the commission said.

INCREASED MARKETINGS AND CHEAPER MEATS SEEN

FOLLOWING THE SLUMP IN THE hog and cattle markets in November, it appears probable that prices of these animals will run for some time at levels below those of the past year, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its December live-stock report.

Chief reasons for the decline in hogs were given as (1) a greater-than-average seasonal increase in numbers of hogs going to market; (2) an increasing weakness in consumer demand; (3) a weak storage demand.

The sharp decline in the better grades of cattle was ascribed partly to a readjustment of the wide spread between prices of the better and lower grades and partly to some weakening in consumer demand.

It is expected that larger numbers of

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

the better grades of slaughter cattle will come to market in the first half of 1938 and that prices for these grades will decline more than usual in this period.

Consumers' Counsel D. E. Montgomery, of the AAA, stated recently that although retail meat prices have declined in the past several months, they have still some distance to go before they reflect the sizable drops which have occurred in prices paid to producers.

INCREASED CATTLE FEEDING IS FEDERAL FORECAST

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN cattle feeding in the Corn Belt the present winter and spring season is forecast in the December report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from stock yards into the Corn Belt during July-November were nearly one-fifth larger than last year, the bureau reported.

Some reduction, smaller than forecast earlier in the season, is seen in feeding operations in the western states. Numbers in the Rocky Mountain states were seen as a little smaller; Arizona and Nevada would show some increase over last year; California, little changed; other states west of the Continental Divide, reduced. The rather sharp decline in cattle prices in November tended to reduce marketings from western states and encouraged local feeding operations.

Cattle feeding in Texas and Oklahoma and in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area and in Maryland was expected to be in larger volume.

LAMB SLAUGHTER SUPPLY ABOUT SAME AS YEAR AGO

LITTLE CHANGE IS EXPECTED in total slaughter of sheep and lambs this marketing season from that of a year ago, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says in its December review of the sheep and lamb situation.

Indications are that farmers in the Corn Belt states, Texas, and Colorado will feed a larger number of lambs this season than last but that there will be a considerable reduction in the number fed in other western states, especially west of the Continental Divide. Demand for meats and wool in this period is expected to be somewhat weaker than a year ago.

Heavier weight of feeder lambs and favorable feeding conditions this year ordinarily would mean an early market movement of fed lambs; but, declares the bureau, low slaughter lamb prices may delay marketings and thereby bring about an unusually large proportion of heavyweight lambs for market later in the season.

SPRING AND FALL PIG CROP DECREASE 5 PER CENT

A DECREASE OF ABOUT 1 PER cent in the fall pig crop and about 5 per cent in the combined spring and fall crop of 1937 from that of 1936 and a prospective increase of about 5 per cent in the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1938 are shown by the December 1 pig crop report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Pigs saved in the fall season of 1937 (June 1 to December 1) numbered an estimated 23,573,000 head—257,000 fewer than in 1936, but larger than in either 1934 or 1935. An estimated 3,778,000 sows farrowed—about 3 per cent fewer than in 1936. Pigs saved per litter averaged 6.24 compared with 6.14 in 1936—the largest average in 14 years of record. The number saved per litter in the spring was likewise the largest spring average ever reported.

Combined spring and fall pig crop is estimated at 62,227,000 head—3,112,000 head fewer than in 1936, but 7,141,000 more than in 1935. Number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1938 (December 1 to June 1) is indicated at 6,512,000—about 310,000 more than in 1937.

PACKERS' SALES HIGHER FOR FISCAL YEAR

SALES OF SWIFT AND COMPANY for the fiscal year ended October 30, 1937, totaled \$885,836,529, approximately 6½ per cent over those of the previous year. Net profit remained practically the same and tonnage was slightly less. Profit of \$8,880,496 was equal to 1 cent per dollar of sales, a fraction of a cent per pound of product, and 3.9 per cent on total investment. During the year, four regular and one special dividends were paid. Current assets of the company were valued at \$177,961,361.54, which included \$20,188,982.30 in cash, \$5,894,715.98 in marketable securities, \$41,822,437.99 in accounts and notes receivable, and \$109,295,895.28 in inventories. Current liabilities totaled \$24,592,114.21.

* * *

Sales of Cudahy Packing Company for the fiscal year ended October 30, 1937, totaled \$222,000,000, exceeding those of the preceding year by \$21,000,000. However, owing to necessity of sacrificing much high-priced perishable product in the last quarter of the year, when the drop in live-stock and commodity prices occurred, the company experienced a net loss of \$1,776,100. Current assets were listed at \$44,444,031.17, of which \$6,046,274.86 was in cash, \$217,832.39 in notes receivable, \$8,557,528.92 in accounts receivable, and \$29,570,350 in inventories. Current liabilities totaled \$22,994,200.35. Surplus on October 30, 1937, amounted to \$7,013,916.90.

Armour and Company sales in the fiscal year totaled \$788,279,705 and net income, \$9,712,792. Dollar sales were 5 per cent higher than the previous year and tonnage showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. Net income earned by Armour and Company of Delaware and its subsidiaries, which include the South American and leather and fertilizer operations, amounted to \$12,417,019. Other corporations of the company sustained a loss totaling \$2,704,227. Current assets of the company totaled \$161,068,237.03, of which \$14,260,777.82 was in cash, \$37,239,726.35 in notes and accounts receivable, and \$160,224,009.49 in inventories. Current liabilities were listed at \$54,257,558.23. Last year the company purchased 15,000,000 head of live stock.

FEEDSTUFF PRICES

On January 6, cottonseed cake and meal was quoted at \$22.70 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices on January 3 at Omaha were: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$20 to \$22; No. 1, \$17 to \$19; standard leafy, \$15.50 to \$16.50; standard, \$14 to \$15; No. 2, \$13 to \$14; No. 3, \$11.50 to \$12.50; upland prairie—No. 1, \$12 to \$12.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3, \$6.50 to \$9; midland prairie—No. 1, \$10.50 to \$11.50; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$9.50; mixed—No. 1, \$12 to \$12.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3, \$6.50 to \$9.



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CHEYENNE

LETTERS

SOMETHING HAPPENED

As in other sections of the cattle producing areas, cattlemen of the Highland country were all set to put a few dollars in the bank to pay off some old obligations. Everything looked rosy. Calves were up around 8 cents for heifers and 9 cents for steer calves. Some, remembering past experiences, climbed aboard the 9-cent train; others thought they might just as well have 10 cents. Well, something happened, just as the I-told-you-so boys now remark.

Most calves contracted in this territory were taken at prices agreed upon, and for a good while they were about all the calves that moved. However, the calves contracted all over the West were enough just about to glut the market for feeder calves. Some new sales have been made in this country lately



at a much lower price, because some ranchmen had to sell to lighten up their ranges. There are still quite a few calves in this section, but the owners are not particular about giving them away. We feel that demand will pick up when forced sales are absorbed.

We have had rain about every two or three weeks this winter—unusual for this country. With these winter rains, we may reasonably expect a fine crop of pea vine and other early spring vegetation, which will bring our cattle up to the summer months in fine condition.

Highland cattle have made many records this year. Highest Hereford price we have heard of this year was the \$26.50 received on a load of first-prize Highlands at the Ohio State Fair. These calves were bought at our 1936 feeder sale at \$9.75, weighing 360 pounds. Grand champion load of calves bought at our 1936 sale sold at the Evansville, Indiana, market for \$17.25—an all-time top at that market. Highland cattle made an all-time record for any one community at the Chicago International this year. Out of 18 prizes offered, Highlands got eight. Our 1938 feeder sale dates are October 6, 7, 8.—DR. A. J. HOFFMAN, Marfa, Tex.

NONCOMPULSORY PROGRAM

I do not think there is much danger of Bang's disease control work becoming compulsory. I am quite sure that the Bureau of Animal Industry is not for a compulsory program at this time. I am not for it at this time. Bang's disease is a different disease from tuberculosis, and our experience leads us to the opinion that the diseases are not subject to the same control measures. Our knowledge of Bang's indicates that compulsory testing is not practical under range conditions. I am of the opinion that proper

range management and good cowmanship, together with vaccination of six- to eight-month-old calves in reactor herds, will do much more to control and eventually eradicate this disease than compulsory blood testing. We realize the good of blood testing and advocate it under certain conditions, but not as a universal method in all herds under range and semi-range conditions. It is quite possible that several of the states will adopt compulsory methods, but I think they will be dairy-cattle producing states.—W. J. BUTLER, State Veterinary Surgeon, Helena, Mont.

TOO MUCH RAIN

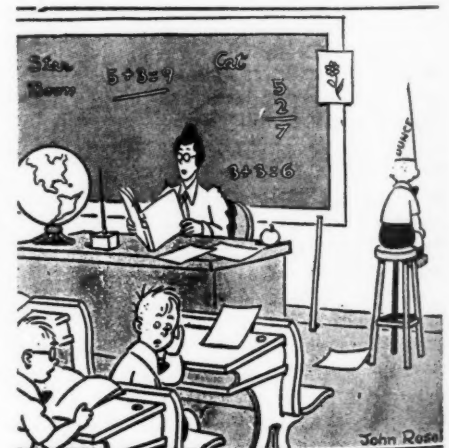
Range conditions are about the best ever. We have had heavy rains since October 1. Feed is fine; in fact, I cannot remember when it was so good—and I was raised here. It has been warm all through the storms. We have just had about 10 days of sunshine; but it is raining like the mischief right now, with the thermometer at 60. We really are getting too much rain. Stock is doing fine. Last year at this time it was the worst ever for both grass and stock. Almost everybody fed out all his hay last winter, and some needed more; but it looks as though we won't have to feed unless it snows. And it can snow, and plenty, too, even if it is California.—THOS. J. SHAW, Kneeland, Cal.

NO BUYERS

Conditions here are better than they have been for 25 years. The prospect is something that has not been equaled, according to some of our oldest residents. But there are no buyers for cattle.—ALLEN JOHNSON, Westfall, Ore.

WATER SHORT

Just enough snow to make cattle do well on dry pasture. Water is short in this section on Elk Creek. Cattle are in good condition for winter.—RAY M. IVES, New Underwood, S. D.



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FOR SALE: 14,800 acres of grazing land, water for stock purposes, in Carbon County, Wyoming, between Walcott, on Union Pacific, and Saratoga, which alternates section by section, with government land. Price, \$30,000; terms to suit. L. E. ARMSTRONG Rawlins, Wyo.

HARDY re-cleaned Alfalfa seed, \$13.90; Grimm Alfalfa, \$15.80; White Sweet Clover, \$5.90; Red Clover, \$16.80. All 60-lb. bushel, track Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA. Unexcelled for general farming, early truck, dairying, poultry, and live stock. Lands at attractive prices. For information and free copy "The Southland," write E. J. Hoddy, General Development Agent, Dept. B-14, Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, Louisville, Ky.

SOUTH DAKOTA—For rent up to 10,000 acres, 12 miles on Missouri River near Iowa; choice clear ranch; high irrigated bottoms; may divide or trade for Chicago property; may assume mortgage. Investigation solicited. Wm. Loehde, 2617 Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.